

UFO

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No out-of-this-world party to mark UFO encounter

By MICHAEL E. NEWMAN
Special to The Journal

I remember back in 1973 hearing about two shipyard workers in southern Mississippi claiming that they were abducted by aliens while fishing at night, examined aboard an unidentified flying object and then returned to the riverbank.

One reason that the story sticks

ANSWER LINE

.....

out in my mind is that there was tons of national press on the alleged event, with all three TV networks broadcasting live from the abduction site.

The other thing that was different

now 44, were fishing on Oct. 11, 1973, at about 9 p.m. on a pier on the Pascagoula River near the Shaupe Shipyard.

They heard a buzzing behind them, turned around and were terrified to see a 10-foot-wide, 8-foot-high, glowing egg-shaped object with blue lights hovering above the ground about 40 feet away. As they

about this tale was that the law enforcement authorities and scientists all felt the shipyard workers were telling the truth.

I believe one of the abductees was named Hickson. Can't recall the other man's name.

Whatever happened to these two fellows? Also, are there any plans to mark the 25th anniversary of the

incident in the town where it happened? If so, being a UFO enthusiast, I might like to attend. — T.D.S., Wheaton, Md.

Dear T.D.S.: "Charlie Hickson still lives in Gautier, Miss., but his fishing buddy — and partner in the weird events in nearby Pascagoula on Oct. 11, 1973 — Calvin Parker, has since moved to Texas," says

clawed hands and no eyes.

Two of the beings grabbed Hickson while the third captured Parker. The 19-year-old immediately fainted with fright. Hickson, who remained conscious, claimed that the creatures floated them into a brightly lit room aboard the UFO. The two men were examined with some sort of electronic eye that

Hickson reported "hung in mid-air with no visible connection to any other part of the compartment." Twenty minutes after the incredible events began, Hickson and Parker were returned to the riverside. The UFO rose straight up into the air and shot out of sight.

The two men told authorities soon afterward about their experience. They said that none of the creatures communicated with them; the only sound coming from the aliens was buzzing. "To this day, Hickson believes that the mechanical-like movements and buzzing indicates the abductors were robots," Fulmer says.

Hickson and Parker became world-renowned overnight. The story is still considered a classic tale of alien encounter 25 years later. Hickson has continued to talk about the abduction through the years, co-authoring a book about it in 1983 ("UFO Contact at Pascagoula"). Parker, on the other hand, has shied away from the attention.

As for any 25th anniversary commemorative gala in Pascagoula this October, don't make hotel reservations just yet. The Pascagoula Chamber of Commerce says that no one has approached it to hold such an event.

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Soldier, author Phil Corso dies

SANTA FE — Ret. Col. Phil Corso has died. Author of the controversial book, "The Day After Roswell," Corso suffered a massive heart attack in early June, but had been making a remarkable recovery until a second attack

his story. But Corso had other problems. In a curious statement, released shortly before his first heart attack, Corso alleged, "Certain elements have laid claim to all my future writings. They have involved me in legal proceedings. I will not foster on the world cheap sensationalism, half-truths and errors passed off as reality for the purpose of personal gain."

Corso announced he and his family would retreat completely from public life and possibly he would never tell the rest he knew because he wouldn't allow it to be exploited by those elements. He directed that all future contacts with him be requested through the International UFO Museum and Research Center at Roswell.

When he died, Corso's family asked that condolences and gifts be sent to the Roswell UFO museum and that the gifts be used for a memorial plaque at "the true crash site" of the 1947 Roswell UFO. In his book Corso writes about a location 37 miles north and west of Roswell, accessible from Pine Lodge Road.

Corso's son said the three weeks between his father's first and second attacks were very productive. He said his father told him a great deal and had more to say when he died. Corso leaves unpublished manuscripts and other UFO-related information which will be protected and made available in due course, according to his son.

And thus is lost another source of clues to what really happened that July night 51 years ago. I haven't seen much that I can hang my hat on.

All I can accept as fact is that the Roswell Army Air Force Base announced in the July 8, 1947, edition of the Roswell Daily Record that it captured a flying saucer on a ranch northwest of Roswell. I also accept as fact that a lot of people in the community were involved in one way or another with the excitement surrounding that event.

As a result, I have a few strong feelings. I feel certain the good people of Roswell didn't get together on the July 4 weekend and concoct a wild story. I'd believe it in Santa Fe, but not Roswell.

I have a hunch if the military said it was a flying saucer, it wasn't. It was likely a story to cover something the military had dropped or crashed. Whatever happened, it was much more embarrassing than the routine landing of a balloon, considering someone as tenacious as Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., ran into one stonewall after another in his investigation.

If my hunches are correct, perhaps it's best we never find out what happened. Roswell is profiting handsomely from the world's UFO mania. Four motels have been built in the past year. Museum visitors should top 300,000 this year. And the city and Roswell Chamber of Commerce are helping more than it appeared when I included Roswell in a recent article about New Mexico's missed opportunities.

Mayor Bill Owen called me the day the article appeared to enumerate the community's efforts.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell,

NM - July 26, 1998

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - May 13, 1998

Letters

Dear Editor:

I am sending this just-published booklet called "Ancient Mathematical Grid Patterns Superimposed Over the Three Major Pyramids of Giza". The talk was given at the 48th annual meeting and 50th anniversary jubilee year conference of the American Research Center in Egypt, University of California at Los Angeles, April 24-26, 1998. After submitting an abstract with drawings, I was asked to give the prepared talk with the use of 15 color slides I prepared with the text.

In 1992 I had discovered in my research that Gulf Breeze seemed to represent on a topographical Mercator flat map of the world the center of a large circle that cut the extreme northwest edge of Alaska and the extreme southern end of South America. Also, in the half-section view of the round Earth, an equilateral triangle could be formed with Gulf Breeze as one point, North Pole as the second point, and Earth's center as third on the equilateral triangle.

In turn, the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt could also represent a point on the same-size equilateral triangle,

because both the Great pyramid of Giza and Gulf Breeze rest on a latitude 30 North running around the Earth. Hence, Gulf Breeze is related to the ancient Great Pyramid complex in Egypt (circa 2600 B.C.)

However, because the talk was on the Great Pyramid and the three major pyramids of Giza in Egypt, I did not mention Gulf Breeze, but did show the Salt Lake-American West quadrant that is an enlarged mathematical model of the basic Great Pyramid-Nile Delta quadrant in Egypt. In any case, my research on the Great Pyramid and Gulf Breeze site was published in The Islander in 1993-94 and also in my published books that I list in the talk.

My 1998 book was just published on these topics and the talk, with seven volumes within the total book because of the many plates and typed text, April 1998 talk and published book.

Perhaps this might interest you. Also, Ed Walters of Gulf Breeze cited my research in his 1997 published book called UFOS ARE REAL: HERE'S THE PROOF.

Kenneth Lloyd Larson



INSIDE THE CAPITOL

JAY MILLER

July 15.

Corso's book detailed how he spearheaded the Army's reverse-engineering project that "seeded" alien technology from the Roswell spacecraft to American companies such as IBM, Hughes Aircraft, Bell Labs and Dow Corning without their knowledge. His book provided the impetus for numerous calls for congressional hearings so he could be examined under oath. Reportedly, Corso looked forward to the opportunity and already had prepared an affidavit.

A highly decorated soldier, Corso was an intelligence officer on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff in Korea and later served on President Eisenhower's National Security Council. Following his retirement, Corso went to Capitol Hill as a national security adviser to Sens. James Eastland and Strom Thurmond. He was buried in a military cemetery near his home in Florida.

Corso said the U.S. government and military never tried to stop him from telling

SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker

Last Saturday was one of those perfect Gulf Coast days—around 75 degrees Fahrenheit, cool north-north-westerly breeze, clear skies and the Beach was heavenly. Who knew that by 8:00 p.m. the temperatures would plummet into the upper 50's and make sky watching seem like a winter time occupation again! We felt as though we had traveled many miles north into a colder climate rather than 5 miles south to Shoreline Park! The wind was chilly, and the air crisp and cool. It was one of those nights where every single star was so clearly visible. It would have been a great night for a sighting, but sadly, nothing to report from Shoreline Park apart from some visitors and quite a good group of regulars!

Visitors included Carol and her friend Sissy from Louisiana, who had traveled to Gulf Breeze specifically to sky watch at Shoreline Park. Carol had a sighting about ten years ago where she saw a bright white object high in the sky making strange zig-zag patterns. As she joked, "That was no star!"

Regulars included myself and my husband, Tom, Bill Ford, Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON's investigation and Marsha and Jim, who although not regulars, are well known to us all. Another anonymous visitor came over, stood for a minute or two, did not introduce himself or approach any of us and then left! I hope we did not appear so formidable that he could not bring himself to say "Hi!"

Pensacola Sightings

I now have more details on the other Pensacola area sighting that I mentioned last week. I was genuinely able to make contact with the witness, Chris. The sighting took place on March 25, 1998, a Wednesday evening at about 9:15 p.m. Chris said he was sitting outside when he looked up and noticed an object in the sky with blue, yellow, white and green lights revolving around it. It was stationary in the sky and appeared to be about 10 or 15 miles from his position in West Pensacola, which would put it somewhere in the area of Perdido Key. The object appeared at an approximate elevation of 60 degrees and about the size of a dime, or index fingernail at arm's length. Chris watched the object for about 2 hours and then returned inside his house. Chris reports having seen UFOs before and told me, "I knew for sure it was a UFO—I have seen a couple of them before, one close by, almost overhead". The following evening Chris and his family reported seeing a similar object in the sky further north of the position of the original sighting on the Wednesday evening. Again, no distinct shape was visible due to the brightness of the lights.

Another sighting report from the weekend of the Project Awareness 6th Annual Gulf Breeze Conference came my way this week. I had spoken at length with Bill and his wife on the Beach, sky watching on the Saturday evening of the Conference, March 21st, and had e-mailed me upon his return home to Madison, Wisconsin about this sighting. At that time, he did not include much detail, so I have been waiting for him to contact me again with more information. He did so this week, so here it is. Bill and his wife were travelling north over the 3-

mile bridge from Gulf Breeze to Pensacola about 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, 1998. As they drove onto the bridge they noticed a white cylindrical object (not dissimilar to that which was video taped during the Conference) over an area east of the north end of the bridge. This area of Pensacola is known as Pensacola Heights. Bill estimates that the altitude of the object was between 1000 and 1500 feet. Bill's account continues....."the object itself was a white cylinder, sort of like alabaster, and the ends were rounded. The surface was smooth and nothing protruded from it, such as wings, antennae, etc.. We could see no features on it, such as markings, windows, or anything but a smooth white surface. It did not leave a vapor trail or emit any light. It just floated and maintained its position, although it had to be windy at that altitude as clouds passed by all around it, but it did not seem to move. It appeared to be much larger than the large airplanes that I've seen at this distance. This is just a guess, but I would estimate it at least 3 times the size of a normal airliner." Bill states that they continued to drive north on the bridge and lost sight of the object once they got into Pensacola proper. This is a very interesting sighting, and I thank Bill for taking the time and trouble to report it to me and then to clarify some of the details. I wonder if anyone else leaving the conference that Sunday afternoon saw this object?

Mars Images

We are keeping an eye on developments as the Surveyor Space Probe sends back images of the Cydonia region on Mars this past week. So far, the images returned to Earth seem somewhat inconclusive. To check out these pictures, hit the NASA web site at <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/marsnews/mgs/cydonia> or the Jet Propulsion Labs web site at <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mgs/index.html>. (Note: these things can take up to nine minutes to download, but it is worth checking them out for yourself).

And just a quick comment on the recent UPN "Danger from the Skies" Special. Not bad, good coverage of the video footage from both Phoenix and Mexico City. I am a little suspicious that consultants working on non-lethal weapons for the government would even be allowed to appear on a UFO show. For those who did not catch this special, that is the main explanation for these two amazing sightings—not flares, not balloons—holographic images projected by the government. Apparently, they

are working on holograms to confuse the enemy in a battlefield scenario. Seems odd that they would project triangular configurations of lights or giant saucer shaped craft—and I still find it odd that they would test these new technologies over such populous

cities as Phoenix and Mexico City.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at: bakerswd@bellsouth.net or P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152. KEEP LOOKING UP!

*NOTE: This article was originally scheduled to run April 15, 1998.

SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker



Things are very quiet these days at Shoreline Park. It seems that a lot of people are not skywatching any more, or if they are, they are going to other locations. For myself, my husband and a few staunch regulars, we still enjoy the atmosphere there and the possibility of meeting interesting visitors, both terrestrial and from who knows where. The last couple of nights have been excellent weather for skywatching with clear skies and warm temperatures. This past weekend, the wind from the southwest was pretty strong, but did not detract from our enjoyment. The City of Gulf Breeze is attempting to rectify the eroding shoreline by the boardwalk by dumping piles of beach sand in the area. I suppose eventually that will wash away into the waters of English Navy Cove also.

A few weeks ago I mentioned receiving information from Bill Ford of Pensacola/Gulf breeze MUFON regarding a sighting that took place in April. I have finally been able to contact the witness and speak with him personally. The sighting took place around 7 p.m. on the evening of Saturday, April 11, 1998. The witness, fifteen year old Jimmy lives in Cantonment, Florida, just a few miles north of Pensacola. I initially spoke with Jimmy's father, Chris, who told me that there is an observation deck on the back of their home with a telescope. "Jimmy has had a telescope since he was old enough to use one," Chris told me. Jimmy has obviously logged quite a few hours looking at the sky! Jimmy told me that he was standing in his next door neighbor's yard that evening when he happened to look up at the sky and noticed a ball of light next to a star. "I knew it did not belong there," Jimmy told me. As he watched, the object, which was initially stationary, began to move cross the sky fairly fast from west to east.

"There was no tail or anything visible on it," Jimmy told me, "and it just got to a point and then disappeared." A few seconds later, the object reappeared in the same location. "This time it started zigzagging around all over the place!" Jimmy stated. The object then disappeared again, never to reappear. The whole sighting lasted approximately one minute and fifteen seconds. The witness knew it was not a shooting star or a satellite. Jimmy told me, "I have always wanted to see a UFO. This is the coolest thing I ever saw in my life."

I also received an interesting report this week from Andrew Griffin who lives in northern Alabama. He sent me a newspaper article from the Muskegon Chronicle of March 17, 1994. The front page article headline reads, "UFO Radar Contacts Starling." The article details a sighting that was tracked by a national weather service radar operator while in telephone contact with Holland, Michigan police who were seeing the UFO from the ground.

The article continues, Radar scopes also confirmed the sightings of something solid and moving—sometimes slowly, sometimes at great speed—across lower central Michigan and out over Lake Michigan." The ground reports and radar echoes all confirmed large triangular shaped objects between 7,000 and 12,000 feet altitude. One radar operator stated, "They're all moving toward the center of Lake Michigan." The tape recordings of these conversations were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

Andrew, who lived in the area at the time and a group of friends decided to go to the area and see if they could also have a sighting. Driving to the town of Holland along back roads in the hope of increasing their chances of a sighting, the two carloads of skywatchers arrived at Holland State Park. They walked to the beach and watched for over an hour in the hopes of seeing a UFO. They decided to drive on, in the hope of

seeing something while they were on the road. Again, driving down a back road toward the Interstate that would eventually lead them home, they were in the vicinity of the town of Zeeland.

Andrew's story continues. "I screamed for the girl who was driving to pull over. There, hovering over the treeline on the right side of the road was an egg-shaped, hazy pink object that gave the appearance of rotation. Erik who was driving the other car with some of the other people, had already pulled over because he and the others had seen it as well. "Andy, do you see it?" Erik yelled excitedly. Erik, me, and the others ran down the shoulder of the road as the object moved above the treeline to the northeast. At the same time, a station wagon that had been driving behind us swerved off the road as a herd of startled deer bolted out of the forest and across the road. The driver of the station wagon got out and looked bewildered, not realizing she was in the midst of a UFO sighting. However, by that time, it had disappeared behind the trees to the northeast." Andrew and myself have discussed the possibility of the deer having been startled by the presence of UFO.

Andrew tells me that one of the group involved in this sighting was so shaken by the event that he refused to discuss it at the time and still does to this day. Interestingly enough Andrew found that shortly after his sighting a similar object was reported in Brisbane Australia.

A new website has been created by a group of British researchers who wish to gather information about abduction experiences. Check it out at <http://maxpages.com/alienres1>. They are hoping to create the largest possible database of experiences for the use of researchers and other interested parties.

For a complete look at Skywatch Diary and other interesting information from the UFO scene, check out the Skywatch Diary website at: <http://www.deleree.com/skywatch-diary>.

I can be contacted by email at: bakerswd@bellsouth.net or at PO Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152.

Keep looking up!

Allagash abductees still wonder what happened

Editor's Note: This is the first of a six-part series produced collaboratively by the Bangor Daily News, the Sun-Journal of Lewiston, WLBZ-TV of Bangor and WCSH-TV of Portland. The televised version of each story will be shown in the evening on the 6 p.m. news except for Part 1, which will be aired at noon and 11 p.m. Sunday by Vince Bevacqua.

By Tom Weber
Of The NEWS Staff

Journalism can be a crazy business, let me tell you.

One minute you're struggling to turn a mundane news event into deathless prose, and the next minute your editor calls you into his office and says he wants you to look into an alien abduction.



"It happened in 1976, up on Eagle Lake in the Allagash," my editor says. He's smirking, as if the whole thing's a joke, but the glow in his eyes gives a different picture. "What a story! And we never wrote a word about it back then."

Of course we didn't write about it, I'm thinking. Just like we didn't write about people who called the newsroom to say their phones were tapped by the KGB. But I just sat there with my mouth open.

"There's a book about it," the editor says. "A light beam sucks these four guys out of their canoe



DANBY ILLUSTRATION

and into a spaceship. The aliens probe them and take ... you know, samples. It's got everything. Who knows? This could be Maine's Roswell."

is a free-lance artist in West Wardsboro, Vt., and also draws caricatures at shopping malls.

Jack Weiner said on the phone he wouldn't mind talking about the abduction, figuring the publicity might turn up someone who also saw something that night but has been afraid to speak. But an interview was out. Paramount Pictures is talking about a TV-movie deal, he said, and the four have been advised to keep a lid on it.

Men's stories of abduction met with awe, skepticism

"We don't even understand what the hell went on there that night," said Jack, a pleasant-sounding, 45-year-old who characterizes himself as an ordinary guy caught up in extraordinary circumstances. "This was the 1970s, so the reaction from others was to ask what we were smoking, drinking or dropping. It's hard for people to understand, but I don't blame them. If someone told me a story like that, I'd say show me a picture, give me some physical evidence."

The four have gone public, though, beginning with a 1993 book about their recollections under hypnosis of what went on in that spaceship. Called "The Allagash Abductions: Undeniable Evidence of Alien Intervention," it was written by a UFO researcher named Raymond E. Fowler, who first met Jim Weiner at a symposium in 1988. After listening to Jim's story of the Maine canoe trip years earlier, of the light beam that engulfed

them and the two or three hours no one could account for, Fowler decided to hypnotize each of them separately and get to the bottom of the mystery.

Here's what came out of those sessions:

It was Aug. 20, 1976, and the four young men started their two-week Maine expedition by climbing Mount Katahdin. Later, they chartered a plane and flew into Shin Pond, then canoed between Telos and Chamberlain lakes on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

At the Mud Brook campsite about four days later, with other tents nearby, they noticed a blazing light in the east, a light much brighter than the stars around it. With binoculars, Jim Weiner determined it was not a star but an object a few miles away, hovering 200 feet above the treetops. It blinked out, and the campers forgot it, never suspecting it would soon return to haunt their lives forever.

Two days later, the group canoed into Eagle Lake and went ashore at a remote Smith Brook campsite. That evening, after building a huge bonfire to serve as a beacon, the four slipped off in the canoe to fish. A quarter of a mile out, Chuck got the spooky feeling of being watched. He turned and saw a large, pulsing sphere of colored light hovering 200 to 300 feet above the cove's southeast rim. It was big as a house, maybe 80 feet in diameter. Definitely not swamp gas or a weather balloon, they concluded.

Charlie, a Navy veteran, signaled an SOS with his flashlight. The fireball immediately closed in, 50 feet up, and sent out a cone-shaped beam that swept the water like a searchlight. Two of the guys

paddled frantically away from the advancing beam, the others splashed with their hands, and then ...

The next thing they recalled was the canoe sliding onto shore. The four stepped out, numbed and exhausted as if they'd run a marathon. They watched the pulsing fireball streak toward Mount Katahdin and then wink out among the stars. To their astonishment, the massive bonfire, which had been blazing not 20 minutes earlier, was nothing more than a bed of glowing coals.

"We were young then, and normally you'd talk all night about something like that," Jack told me. "But we were in shock and we all just fell asleep. It wasn't until the next day that we snapped out of it and mentioned the light we saw."

The lost block of time remained a troubling puzzle for the next 12 years. Finally, after agreeing to Fowler's request to undergo hypnosis, the four men independently pieced together the missing link: They hadn't outrun the cone-shaped tractor beam after all.

In transcripts of their hypnotic recollections, the men variously describe being trapped inside a tube. It was a dark tube, a tube swirling with sparkling, dustlike particles, a tube that drew them up to a frightening place of hallways, chambers, gleaming machines and examining tables.

"They're like bugs! They've got, ah, bug eyes," Jim blurted under hypnosis, anxiously recalling the thin, spidery creatures in bodysuits that probed his brother's nude body with their instruments. He watched them touch Jack's eyes, his genitals, the hair on his legs, his toes.

The men were all naked and zombielike throughout the ordeal, moving obediently to commands issued telepathically by their examiners. Their pencil sketches in the book reveal creatures resembling the aliens of science fiction movies: the willowy arms, the elliptical, glassy eyes set wide on insect heads, the beaky mouths, the turkey-wattle necks, the nimble, four-fingered hands lacking opposing thumbs.

They poked, prodded and twisted the campers' bodies, sometimes painfully. At one point, Chuck talked of seeing the aliens place a silvery contraption on Charlie's chest — a thing shaped like the opera house in Sydney, Australia — and then plunging a tube into his rib cage. The men could not speak or move. They could not reach out to help one another. Eventually, the examination ended.

"We're into — we're going into the portal," Chuck recalled under hypnosis.

"And then what happened?" the hypnotist asked.

"It's like we're going down."

"Down where?"

"To the canoe."

With the four limp campers back in place, the canoe glided toward shore with its bow high, as if nudged by an outside force. The men felt anesthetized, confused. They stood on shore and watched the fireball become a pinpoint of light in the heavens and then disappear. Their alien adventure was over.

Or was it?

Except for Charlie Foltz, each of the men has reported other alien encounters in their lives. Chuck Rak recalled a terrifying alien presence in his room when he was a boy. Jim remembered

So off I go, hunting aliens. Beam me up, Scotty.

It's not the first time I've dabbled in the intergalactic. A few years ago at a gathering in Bangor I talked spaceships with a few very average Mainers. There was a psychologist there, who said she didn't care whether spaceships existed or not. She was only concerned about the mental distress people suffer when they think they've seen one. A nurse's aide, in fact, told the group he saw a UFO with pulsing red, blue and green lights hovering over East Corinth one night.

"A friend said he hoped I wasn't going to become obsessed by this," the young man said, sucking nervously on a cigarette. "I told him it was too late."

Obsession. That worried me about this Allagash abduction business. What if these four guys were obsessed with their experience in the woods 22 years ago? How do you interview someone who goes on and on about things so strange that you couldn't verify them unless you were there? And no one was there, of course, except these four guys and a few nonverbal aliens.

I finally tracked down Jack Weiner, one of the Allagash four, who lives in rural West Townshend, Vt., and works for a company that coats optical lenses. The others in the camping party back then were Jim Weiner, Jack's twin, Charlie Foltz and Chuck Rak.

Jim is an instructor at the Computer Arts Center of the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, where the four studied together in the 1970s. Charlie is a medical illustrator at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Brockton, Mass. Chuck

being visited in his bedroom as a child by a presence he and his brother nicknamed Harry the Ghost. Jack said, in fact, that he and his wife saw a huge UFO just a few years ago while driving on a back road in Vermont.

"And twice I've seen a UFO at the bottom of my driveway," he told me in the casual, matter-of-fact tone of someone who doesn't fret anymore about his credibility.

After the book came out, the group told the Allagash story on Joan Rivers' talk show — a very bizarre interview, Jack said. The abduction has been featured on the TV show "Unsolved Mysteries," and on a Japanese news broadcast. If this current deal pans out, it could be a TV movie, too. Either you believe it's possible or you don't, Jack said. He doesn't judge people one way or the other.

Even Chuck Rak is unsure these days. He believes the hovering wilderness fireball was an alien craft of some kind, but suspects that his 1989 recollections about being inside the spaceship were the result of a prehypnotic suggestion.

Who knows? An international panel of scientists recently called for a study of UFO phenomena, claiming there are many intriguing reports out there that have never been seriously investigated. The Allagash four would appreciate all the help they can get.

"One day, someone will come forward with physical evidence and people will believe there's really something out there," Jack said just before we hung up. "Then they'll know those Allagash guys weren't crazy after all."

Community members gather to share UFO experiences

By Jim Feehan
The Chronicle

While lounging in his cedar hot tub seven years ago, John Baker looked to the sky and saw a large black triangle "the size of a football field" hovering over his Fords Prairie home.

"It was an unidentified flying object," he said. "It certainly was unlike anything I have ever seen."

Last summer, Karen Munyan of Centralia was walking behind Centralia High School when she saw a "purple, blue light high up in the sky that appeared, and then suddenly disappeared."

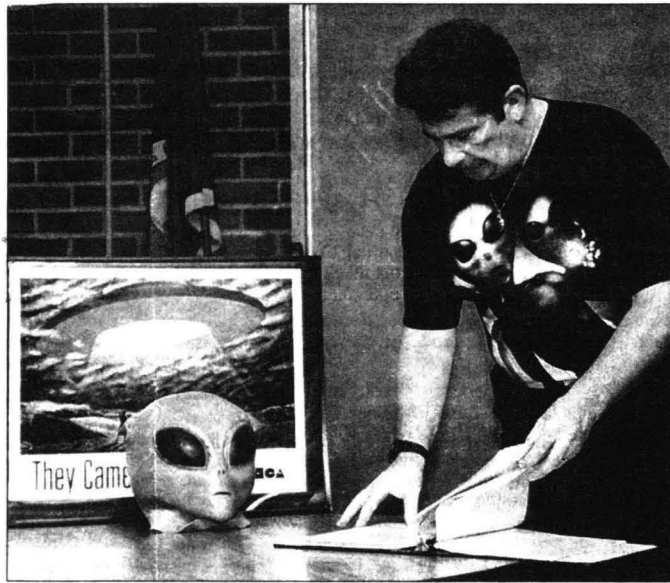
Baker and Munyan were among a dozen enthusiasts who attended a lecture and slide presentation by UFO expert James Clarkson Thursday night at the Centralia Timberland Library.

"I'm convinced by the sheer number of sightings that UFOs exist, and the U.S. government has covered it up," he said. "I want the truth. This has become a quest, my search for the Holy Grail."

A veteran law enforcement officer in Grays Harbor County, and a military police officer prior to that, Clarkson became interested in UFOs 30 years ago, when he heard an author interviewed on a San Francisco radio station.

Clarkson serves as the state section director of the Mutual UFO Network. Founded in Texas in 1969, MUFON (the acronym for the organization) is the largest volunteer UFO investigative organization in the United States. The organization is made up of people interested in researching the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects, Clarkson said.

"One high-quality UFO event occurs somewhere on Earth every hour of every day. This is an event involving witnesses and evidence of high credibil-



James Clarkson, a UFO investigator from Aberdeen, gives a lecture about UFOs at the Centralia Timberland Library Thursday evening.

ity and a phenomenon of strangeness. Regardless of the disdain of the media or government deceptions, this is happening all around us," Clarkson said.

He said not all sightings are UFOs and that hoaxes occur, including one allegedly perpetrated by a British media mogul.

"We must separate the wheat from the chaff," he said.

Skeptics and cynics will always question the veracity of UFO sightings, Clarkson said.

"People won't be convinced until a saucer lands on the White House lawn. We open diplomatic relations with them, and Wal-Mart and McDonald's open franchises on the aliens' planet," he said.

A 1962 Brookings Institute study found that the existence of UFOs and alien life forms must be kept secret. To release the information, the study said, would bring about the immediate collapse of all economic, social and religious institutions worldwide, Clarkson said.

Baker, who owns and operates a

cemetery in Centralia, said he had an earlier alien encounter during the summer of 1966.

He was a systems analyst for the Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City, S.D.

"I was in the control room at the time, when an object penetrated a silo pod of 10 missiles," he said.

A strike team responded, and the pilots reported seeing a "luminous object, with a little object coming out of the bigger object," Baker said.

A colonel met the helicopter pilot who took footage of the incident, and the film was taken off the base, Baker said.

"The Air Force said it was an experimental plane, and we were told we couldn't talk about it," he said.

...
Jim Feehan covers business news for The Chronicle. He can be reached by e-mail at jfeehan@chronline.com or by calling 807-8235.

'Mac Brazel Speaks' keeps audience laughing

ANDREW POERTNER
RECORD STAFF WRITER

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - July 6, 1998

The International UFO Museum and Research Center's presentation of "Mac Brazel Speaks" final performance Sunday evening left the audience with new insights into the 1947 Roswell Incident, and possibly some new questions.

The one-man show written and starring Bob Barnes, chronicled the possible experiences of Mac Brazel, the rancher who discovered the wreckage of an unidentified object on his ranch July 5, 1947, and was secluded by the military when he arrived in Roswell with news of his find.

Barnes has been involved with the museum for about two years and narrated its cassette-tape tour and designed the 1947 newsroom display at the museum. He said he was fascinated by the Brazel story and researched the events of the time to base his play on, which was first performed last year for museum members.

Museum Director Deon Crosby said the play received a very favorable response during all four performances.

"They love it," Crosby said. "People are very surprised by it because Bob did his homework. Through his presenta-



tion he's able to bring the pieces together."

Barnes entertained the audience with his portrayal of Brazel as a cantankerous farmer who discovers the strange remains of a crash and brings it to town for his reward. The audience laughed at his good-natured swearing and humorous asides to them.

His words vividly painted his surroundings as he recalled the events. He described being taken for questioning by the military and its treatment of him, badgering him to accept what he saw was only a weather balloon.

His agitation continues to mount as officers entreat him to sign a statement saying that he saw a weather bal-

loon.

"It was no darn weather balloon," he constantly repeated. "I've found lots of weather balloons out there in the desert, and this was no weather balloon."

Finally his temper reaches its peak when they mispronounce his name as "brassiere."

"Right there was where the manure hit the mud flaps," Brazel said.

After rounds of Brazel demanding his reward and the military demanding he sign the statement, Brazel said he would have to see what his lie would be protecting.

He was reluctantly shown a strange humanoid creature and agreed to sign the statement for the good of the nation.

"I read the paper again, and picked up the fancy pen and signed my name," he said in a broken, resigned voice.

With the paper signed, his captors became more amicable and enlisted his help to plan the removal of the wreckage.

As he prepared to leave, Brazel was shown one final sight. With intense, vivid words, Barnes described the scene as the hangar doors opened, a blinding light struck him and he saw a gleaming silver-green object

inside — a new truck for his cooperation.

After the official presentation concluded, Barnes strolled back onto the stage and remained in character as he impressed the audience by answering their questions on the occurrences during the 1947 event and its participants.

Barnes is a professional actor with motion picture, stage, television and commercial performances to his credit.

His movie roles include "Somebody has to Shoot the Picture," "Earnest Saves Christmas," "Psycho IV" and "Deadly Innocents." He has appeared on "All My Children," "Unsolved Mysteries," "Superboy" and "Swamp Thing."

On stage, he has performed roles in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "The Odd Couple," "Will Rodgers Follies" and "The Rocky Horror Show." He has appeared in corporate education films, his voice has been used in Walt Disney productions and he has been in many television commercials.

Correction on UFO story in Standard

UNTAM BASIN STANDARD, Roosevelt, UT - July 14, 1998

In a story on the front page of the Uintah Basin Standard on July 7, "Group wants scientific study of extraterrestrial phenomenon," a comment attributed to Terry and Gwen Sherman was incorrect. Terry Sherman says he cannot conclusively say that abnormal activity on his former ranch was caused by extraterrestrials. The information used in the Standard was taken from earlier articles which quoted Sherman in the Salt Lake City press.

Sherman wanted to set the record straight by stating he does not know and has been careful not to speculate on what caused the unexplained occurrence that left cattle missing or mutilated and large circular impressions on pasture and in soil on his 480-acre ranch in Uintah County.

The ranch was purchased by the National Institute for Discovery Science in September 1996 for the purpose of investigating the possibility of visits by extraterrestrial beings. The Uintah Basin has been referred to by some scientific researchers as one of the "hot spots" for UFO sightings, particularly in the mid-1960s.

Sherman said he is not authorized to give any statements in behalf of the Institute of Discovery Science, but personally has never known one way or the other what was responsible for the activity on his former property.

"As a scientific organization they have to document something for absolute certainty before they can release it. It's a difficult subject to put across to the American people."

Sherman said he stopped giving media interviews some time ago because of the way reporters chose to sensationalize his story.

"I know it's [the unexplained activity] strange and it's bizarre, but I don't know what it is."

Keeping an eye on the sky

Arizona's UFO network separates truth from natural phenomena

BY KARA RITTER

Flying saucer crashes and alien autopsies. Military secrets and conspiracy theories.

"It's a fad thing," says Alan R. Morey, assistant director of the Arizona chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, about the intense interest surrounding extraterrestrials. "It's like anything else. It's like disco was — whatever is hot and marketable. Right now it's hot, but UFO studies have been going on for a long time."

Morey says the public's fascination with UFOs, coupled with his organization's goal of informing the public, led to an educational show at Chris-Town Mall. Now in its fourth year, the annual UFO show brings hordes of people to both the mall and, ultimately, to MUFON monthly meetings.

Some people are just curious, says MUFON state director Tom Taylor. Others have stories to tell and are too embarrassed. Taylor says despite the perception that UFO enthusiasts are eccentric, paranoid folks, most Arizona MUFON members are professionals such as pilots, doctors, police officers and retired military personnel.

They all believe in a haunting possibility.

Taylor's first UFO sighting occurred 33 years ago while he was hunting near the McDowell Mountains east of Scottsdale.

"I noticed a reflection on the hood of my car and when I looked out, it was a white object the size of an aspirin in the sky," he says. "It moved. The object came down, almost touching the ground, and then took off fast. It was like nothing I've ever seen before."

Taylor has had three other sightings since. The most memorable was when he saw an object shooting blue laser lights near the small town of Salome in central Arizona.

Sound crazy? Taylor poses this question to skeptics: Why would Earth be the only planet with life?

"People call in all the time," he says. "You wouldn't believe some of the stories I hear. There is a lot of malarkey out there."

After receiving word of a sighting, MUFON investigators interview witnesses, analyze data or photos and sometimes visit scenes, depending on



N. SCOTT TRIMBLE

Serious searcher: Alan R. Morey, assistant state director for the Mutual UFO Network, uses the various equipment shown here to keep close tabs on extraterrestrial activities in Arizona.

IF YOU GO

The UFO Awareness Show by the Arizona chapter of the Mutual UFO Network will be at Chris-Town Mall, 1703 W. Bethany Home Road, Phoenix, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Free. Info: 242-9074.

the account, Taylor says. From there, the sighting is written into a report and sent to the group's national headquarters.

Morey, one of MUFON's certified field investigators, says most of the sightings are by well-educated people with stories that, once researched, are usually attributable to natural phenomena.

"I've been woken up at 4 a.m. by people before with stories that actually was just Venus during the kind of weather conditions that could seem suspicious," says Morey, who had to study at the international headquarters of MUFON for six months to receive his certification as an investigator. (Ironically, he received his certification the same day

the now-famous and still-unexplained sightings from 1947-97. "lights" appeared over Phoenix in March 1997.)

"A lot of people don't want to hear what I have to say because it's truth — it's information based on evidence," Morey says. "People want flying saucers over Camelback Mountain. People will take anything unusual and blow it out of proportion. I have to tell the truth. I can't jump to conclusions."

Morey has experienced three sightings, each time with another witness. He says he feels more credible knowing that other people had exact accounts of his experience in a compiled book of Arizona MUFON

"People want flying saucers over Camelback Mountain. People will take anything unusual and blow it out of proportion." I have to tell the truth."

— ALAN R. MOREY
ASSISTANT STATE DIRECTOR
OF MUFON

MUFON meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at the National Guard Armory, 5636 E. McDowell Road. Cost: \$3 for nonmembers. Info: 967-6265 or (800) UFO-2166.

As for secret military files and conspiracy theorists, Morey says while the future is uncertain, he predicts the amount of information on UFOs won't change, but the technology of how they compile research will.

"I don't think the military is going to release anything new now," he says. "If they did that, they would admit they had been lying for the past 50 years."

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Aug. 20, 1998 CR: W. Connors

Deon Crosby leaves post at UFO museum

Deon Crosby, director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center, is leaving that position today.

Crosby announced she has accepted an offer to become the new executive director of the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Lubbock.

Crosby said in a press release that she and her children will be relocating to Lubbock within the next two

weeks. Her husband, Stan Crosby, will join the family in a few months.

The Ronald McDonald House is an organization which provides free accommodations to families with children who have life-threatening diseases. Crosby said the Lubbock House has 17 rooms and serves as a free hotel to families in need.

The organization is also a

partner in a variety of fundraising opportunities. The money collected is then given back to the community in the form of grants geared toward children's services, she said.

"I am very excited and eager to be giving my skills and talent to this humanitarian effort," she said.

Dennis Balthaser, staff volunteer and UFO investigator at the museum, said several people are being considered to replace Crosby. He said he can't give the names out until the board of directors gives its full approval.

Crosby said she has confidence that the board will continue running the museum

successfully.

"I know well that you as friends and volunteers will continue to support and encourage all of those involved in the decision-making process, and that through that encouragement, this spectacular museum will thrive," she said.

Balthaser said he has worked closely with Crosby for the past two years.

"She will be missed, no doubt about it," Balthaser said. "She did a lot of work for the museum but I also feel she is fortunate to have the opportunity to do what she will do down in Lubbock. It's something she will enjoy."

Roswell incident missing from scientific panel's UFO findings

By Lawrence Spohn
TRIBUNE REPORTER

The Roswell incident — perhaps the most famous, or infamous, UFO case — was not considered formally by a scientific panel that just said some UFO reports merit scientific inquiry.

The panel, organized and supported by the Society for Scientific Exploration, issued an extensive report Monday concluding that some UFO sightings have physical evidence worthy of scientific evaluation.

But the panel of highly regarded scientists stopped considerably short of saying "we are not alone."

Nothing it had reviewed during a weeklong inquiry into several UFO cases last year was sufficient to suggest extraterrestrial intelligence was involved or that any natural laws were violated, the panel reported.

"I was a bit surprised it (Roswell) didn't come up," said Von R. Eshleman, a Stanford University electrical

engineer and planetary scientist who was a member of the panel.

"They were told to take their best shots," Eshleman said, referring to UFO investigators who presented cases to the panel that they felt had the strongest physical evidence.

"There was no Roswell stuff and no abductions," Eshleman said.

"There was physical evidence, I believe, that came out of Roswell, but I think we had a more sober group (of UFO investigators) presenting to us."

The Roswell incident, as it has come to be known and popularized in the hit television series the "X-Files," occurred in 1947 when a Roswell rancher discovered unusual debris on his land.

After a quick inspection, Air Force officials issued a press release claiming to have recovered material from the crash site of a flying saucer.

Almost immediately, the Air Force retracted the press release. Over the

"We didn't actually review any evidence connected with Roswell, so we couldn't say whether anything there needs to be looked at."

Thomas Holzer,
UFO review panel member

years the incident has fueled claims of a cover-up that included the alleged recovery of alien bodies and extraterrestrial materials.

In 1995, New Mexico physicist Charlie Moore said he was virtually certain that the recovered Roswell debris was from a huge secret government balloon he helped launch. It was to test whether high-altitude balloons could detect an atomic-bomb explosion in the then-Soviet Union.

An 800-page Air Force investigative report the same year concluded that the balloon test program, code-named Project Mogul, was the source of the Roswell ranch debris.

A later Air Force report suggested

that Roswell folklore was fueled by later Air Force tests in the same area using parachute dummies.

"We didn't actually review any evidence connected with Roswell, so we couldn't say whether anything there needs to be looked at," said Thomas Holzer, a Colorado atmospheric scientist and member of the UFO review panel.

"But obviously, the Roswell incident came up," he said. "It did come up in dinner-time conversation, and some of the UFO investigators thought the Air Force's most recent explanation (citing the crash dummies) just blew it."

Holzer, who works at the Nation-

al Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., said most of the cases presented to the panel raised significant scientific questions.

These include medical concerns, such as whether so-called UFO encounters could pose real health hazards from natural or man-made phenomena such as electrical storms or radar.

Eshleman said recent research at Los Alamos National Laboratory that revealed colorful electrical activity, called elves and sprites, above thunderstorms may explain some UFO claims of weird, fast-moving lights.

He noted that such phenomena occur nearly at the edge of the atmosphere and can be seen over a horizon, even though the storm itself is blocked by the curvature of the Earth.

The nine-member panel, which included James Papike, a University of New Mexico earth and planetary scientist, was organized and directed by Peter Sturrock, a Stanford professor of applied physics.

Papike, who is director of the UNM Institute of Meteoritics, was traveling this week and could not be reached.

Holzer, like several scientists who served on the panel, said he was reluctant to become involved for fear of criticism from his colleagues.

But he said the evidence he saw convinced him that some UFO claims present scientific problems that need to be dealt with for the benefit of society.

Holzer said the public is certainly interested in the matter and suggested that scientists might actually enhance their own status with the public by tackling the problem.

He said he's not saying he believes they might prove ultimately that extraterrestrial life has been visiting Earth, but that science can provide an objective forum for evaluating the evidence of such claims.

What's going around?



Farmer Gary Hanzen stands in the outer of two circles formed in his wheat field near Pendleton, Ore., earlier this

week. Hanzen discovered the rings when a neighbor called to ask who put the "targets" in his field.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 10, 1998

SKYWATCH DIARY

by Carole Baker



Some sighting reports came my way recently from around the country, one with interesting connections to a weather phenomenon that occurred just a few days later.

The first report came from Medford, Oregon and was reported to me by Kim. I am personally aware of Kim's identity, but for the sake of protecting Kim's employment, we are using a first name basis for purposes of this report. The sighting occurred on Tuesday, May 5th between 8:40 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. PST. Kim says it was one of the first fairly clear nights they had experienced there in Medford for a while, so she went outside to sit and skywatch.

"The sky was pretty bright. I live in town, so I'm assuming the moon was out, but I don't really recall seeing it." Kim goes on to describe what she saw. "I was scanning the sky when I noticed a small (normal airplane sized) white light moving steadily across the sky from the northeast toward the southeast. At first I thought it was a plane or a satellite. The object then 'appeared' to turn toward me (now facing toward the west). I say 'appeared' because it went from being very dim and satellite sized to being brighter than a search light and a little larger than a quarter." Kim says she wondered if this could have been a helicopter, but there was no noise, and no way a helicopter could have traveled that distance so fast as to account for the notable change in its size and brightness. "The object then seemed to hang in one place, not getting any bigger or brighter, for another three to five seconds...no

discernable outline...just seemed like a huge search light...the glare blocked out all the stars for a big distance around it...then it turned back toward the southeast...growing dimmer and smaller." Kim then states that it shot off toward the southeast "like a bullet" and was gone. The whole sighting lasted 25 to 35 seconds. Kim says that she kept watching the sky, but saw nothing more anomalous during the rest of the evening.

BIRMINGHAM SIGHTING

The other sighting was forwarded to me by Nancy Lawson, MUFON State Section Director and Certified MUFON field investigator from Birmingham, Alabama. Nancy has been kind enough to share her report with us in full so I will quote it directly here. "On Monday evening, March 30, 1998, at approximately 11:00 p.m. I received a call from our As-

sistant MUFON State Director, Sue Pitts. A sighting had just occurred in the western part of Jefferson County near the Warrior River, about an hour's drive southwest of Birmingham and very close to Oak Grove, Alabama. Sue had just received a call from the witness. He had called the Birmingham Airport Control Tower who, in return, stated that the radar system there had not picked up anything out of the ordinary. In fact, the only thing visible on radar at the approximate time of his call had been a small helicopter which had already moved beyond Birmingham's jurisdiction. The Controllers then referred the witness to Sue, who then notified me.

The next day, March 31, 1998 during the morning, I called the witness who relayed the sighting information to me as follows: At approximately 9:30 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 1998, while sitting on the front porch of his home our witness noticed a bright light in the southwest sky. This light was moving northeasterly very slowly toward our witness. At first, the witness thought he was seeing an airplane approaching, as he often times sees at night while observing the skies. (This witness is an avid skywatcher). However, as the

object got nearer he began to notice that the light it gave off was much brighter than any airplane he'd ever seen, and the object eventually stopped at about 30 to 45 degrees above the horizon. As the witness watched, the object remained stationary—perfectly still or hovering. He called his wife to bring his camera and to look out at the sight. They both continued to observe the object for about 30 to 35 minutes before it gradually disappeared. During the course of their observations, photos were snapped and the couple phoned their daughter in Hueytown about thirty miles east of them, to have her look out at the skies. She too saw the object hovering, and upon her sighting ran back inside her home and locked the doors! After the 30 to 45 minute observation of the hovering object, described as "a brilliant, white diamond in the sky sparkling with every color of the rainbow, the size of an aspirin held at arm's length and totally silent" the object began to "drift" back from whence it came, very slowly until it disappeared from sight behind the horizon."

I can be contacted by e-mail at: bakerswd@bellsouth.net or at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152. **Keep Looking Up!**

SKYWATCH DIARY

by **Carole Baker**



We spent some time this week looking through some old newsletters and newspapers and came across the following information, which we found very interesting and hope you do also. The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON's newsletter, "The Blue Beam", Volume 2, #5 dated September 8, 1992, carried a story on page 2 entitled "Cobb Edges Out Morrisons" written by newsletter editor, Patti Weatherford. The article states "Well, maybe Bruce and Anne Morrison were not the first to spearhead local, regular UFO watches after all. It appears that Arthur Cobb edged them out...by about twenty years!!! This news clipping (shown to the right of the article) appeared in the Pensacola News Journal on 6/20/67 — Yes, 1967!!!

The News Journal piece reads: "UFO Watch" — Apparently the UFOs — unidentified flying objects — are real. And apparently, many of the flying saucers have been hovering over the Pensacola area. Many such reports have come to city desk the last several weeks — particularly on Wednesday nights. That's the reason a UFO watch has been set up, starting at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday at the bluffs on Scenic Highway — just across from the cemetery overlooking the bay. You're invited. — **ARTHUR COBB.**"

We decided to go and look up this article in the Pensacola News Journal archive at the University of West Florida. What we found was that there was more to this story than meets the eye....

First of all, beginning June 18, 1967, the Pensacola News Journal ran a seven part series about UFOs written by the famous ufologist John Keel. We were surprised at this level of coverage since it reflects the level of interest in UFOs in this area, even as far back as 1967.

On Tuesday of that week, June 20, 1967, the announcement about the UFO watch was published in Arthur Cobb's "Coffee Break" column. The following day, Wednesday, June 21, 1967 Arthur Cobb announced: "UFOs Tonight — Tonight's the night for the UFO flight. Wednesday night is the best night to see the UFOs in the Pensacola area. A watch is set up for 8:15 tonight on Scenic Highway bluffs, just across from the cemetery. Most flying saucers reported here have

been over that general area. In answer to several calls Tuesday, binoculars shouldn't be necessary but sunglasses may be helpful for the bright, silvery saucers. At 10:20 p.m. Tuesday, two Marine captains reported a UFO headed north over Pensacola — **ARTHUR COBB.**" (Sunglasses????!!!! Interesting....read on....)

On June 22, 1967 the Pensacola News Journal ran an article entitled "Aerial Pyrotechnics Thrill Thousands." Written by staff writer Bill Taylor, the article reads, "The man in the moon split his sides laughing, thousands of UFO watchers added another chapter to their books, and rockets from Eglin Air Force Base put on a really big show Wednesday night along the Scenic Bluffs off Scenic Highway. The show started at 8:25 p.m., but hundreds of cars of people stated gathering almost an hour before that — to see the "Unidentified Flying Objects" that were "reported" spotted over the area on Wednesday nights in recent weeks and "predicted" this time at 8:15 p.m. It goes on to say: "Then — as if it were a stage production — a blue-orange-white rocket fired from Eglin Air Force Base, showed in the sky above. "Look at that," someone cried. "That not the moon," a woman said, "it's a flying saucer."

Since "Thousands of persons and hundreds of cars" turned out for this fiasco, it shows just how much interest there was in UFOs in the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze area back in 1967. Obviously, Arthur Cobb knew about this rocket activity from Eglin, and one can only speculate the thinking behind presenting this to the public as a UFO watch! It seems that confusion and misinformation has reigned supreme for many years concerning UFO/military activity in this area.

Eglin Air Force Base officials confirmed that it sent up "a series of smoke rockets that spewed a red-blue-green vapor in the upper atmosphere.... The phosphorous vapor is to test wind drift." Some UFO watchers were disappointed stating "all I've seen so far...are some rockets, apparently from Eglin Air Force Base" while others said "I know it was a UFO, I saw the red doors in the saucer." Imagination running wild could speculate that this was a government plot to determine the level of interest in UFOs in this area...or perhaps it was just a newspaperman having a good yuck? Hmmmm...

I can be contacted by e-mail at bakerswd@bellsouth.net or at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152.

Keep Looking Up!

UFO sighters and the simply interested share their stories

By **GEORGIA PABST**
of the Journal Sentinel staff

While others spent Saturday afternoon enjoying nature at its brilliant, summertime best, about 20 people gathered indoors to share their experiences from the world beyond.

Heidi Hollis, 28, a Mount Mary College student, said she decided to organize the new UFO group for everyone interested in the subject.

Other UFO groups are research-oriented or are "sightings"-based, meaning members must have experienced a close encounter with an unidentified flying object, she said.

"This group is a combination of both and (wants) to get the regular population to expand their ideas," said Hollis, who said her first sighting of a UFO was at age 19, when she saw a bright, glowing "Independence Day"-like object on I-43 downtown.

"We want to work on awareness, building interest, and learning, so that the concept isn't so foreign," she said.

At Saturday's gathering, young and old, male and female, black and white sat in a circle at the meeting room of the East Side Library, relating stories that would make the X-Files bulge. As people told their tales, only first names were used.

Some, such as Bob, Bonnie and Erica, talked matter-of-factly about what they said have been a lifetime of experiences: sightings, ghosts, extraterrestrials, levitation, talking with other beings.

"Some pretty nice and others not so nice," said one.

But others, like Ally and her girlfriend, Carrie, came from Janesville just to listen and live vicariously.

"I lay outside... at night hoping to see something," Ally said. So far, her experiences have been limited to what she's read.

Said Carrie: "I've not seen anything, but there must be something. I can't believe there's nothing out there."

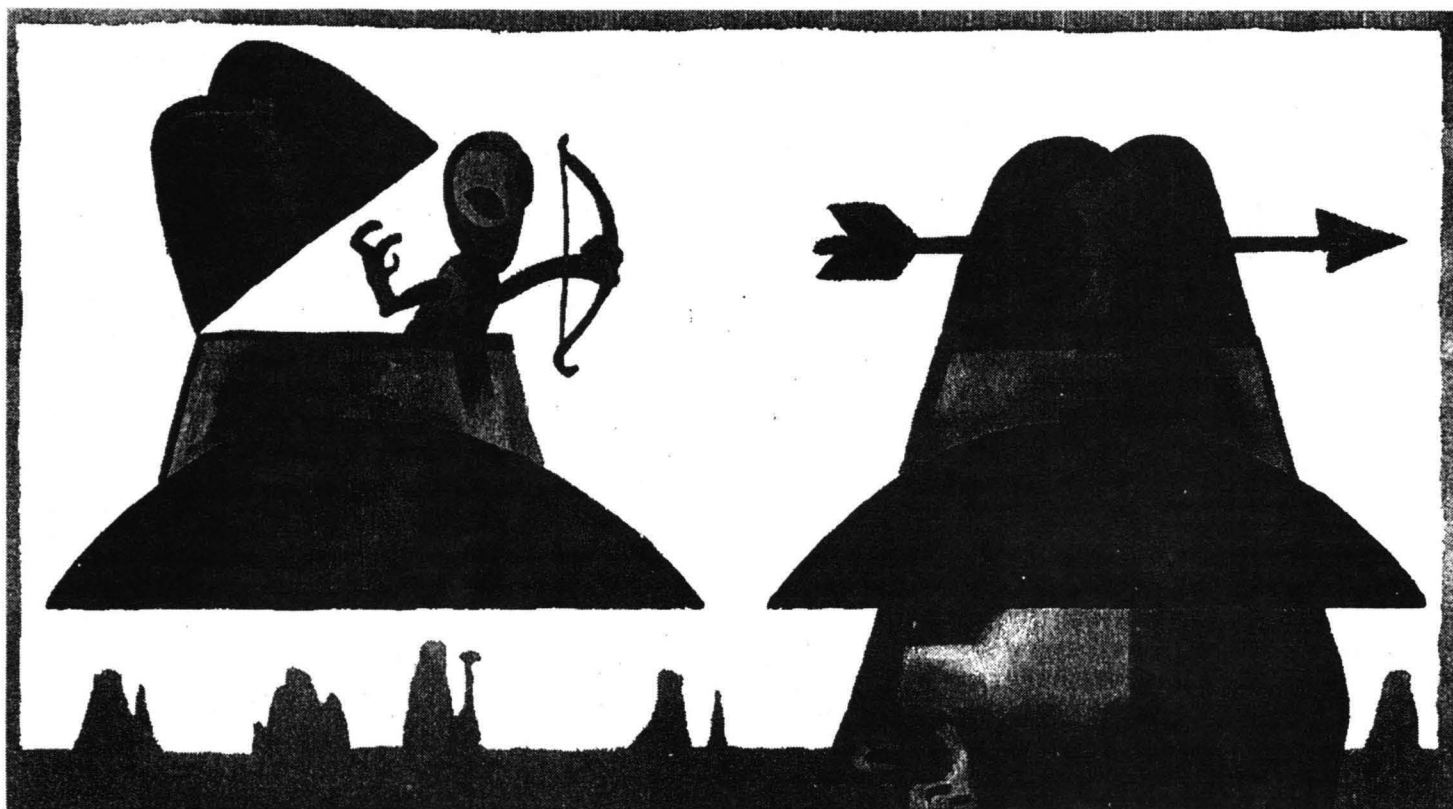
Dan, distinguished by tattoos on his arms and neck, rings pierced into his nose, lips and eyebrow, and streaks of blue in his hair, said he's traveled around the country and "seen things flying around" in the desert and near the ocean where he's camped. He said he also feels a certain energy surge but fears what he might see.

Some at the meeting predicted that Dan is on the threshold of a new reality. "You have to get past the fear," Bonnie said.

Fox Mulder would have felt right at home.

Alien Nation

U.F.O. mythology has become ingrained in America's consciousness.



THOMAS FUCHS

DREAMLAND

Travels Inside the Secret World of Roswell and Area 51.

By Phil Patton.

Illustrated. 336 pp. New York: Villard Books. \$25.

By Glyn Vincent

ON April 19, 1897, a strange "airship" crashed into a windmill in the small town of Aurora, Tex. It was constructed of unknown materials; its logs were written in indecipherable hieroglyphics. The dead pilot was described as being from another planet, perhaps Mars. So reported a Dallas newspaper in one of the earliest accounts of an unidentified flying object crashing on American soil.

At about that time, the first dirigibles were floating across the skies, and early science fiction writers like Jules Verne and H. G. Wells stirred the popular imagination with tales of fantastic voyages and alien invaders. In the decades that followed, the invention of airplanes, jets and rockets increased the plausibility of space travel and Martians visiting Earth. On June 24, 1947, a pilot, Kenneth Arnold, reported seeing a squadron of boomerang shapes zip past Mount Rainier. Two weeks later, the United States Government reported the capture of a flying saucer (a term invented by the news media) near Roswell, N.M. By the early 1950's, flying saucers were being spotted everywhere — and aliens were at the drive-in. Never mind that the Air Force decided the wreckage at Roswell came from a

weather balloon, and that most other reports of U.F.O.'s (including the one in the Dallas paper) proved to be hoaxes — a modern myth had been born.

Phil Patton, who writes the Public Eye column in the House & Home section of The New York Times, is keenly interested in the origins of U.F.O. lore and in all things aeronautical. In "Dreamland," he investigates the history of the once top-secret, now infamous military installation known as Area 51 — and the U.F.O. subculture that surrounds it.

Situated in the forbidding desert terrain of southern Nevada, Area 51 has been a Government testing ground for missiles and clandestine aircraft since 1950, when it first came under the control of the Atomic Energy Commission. Over the past few decades, it has also become a magnet for U.F.O. watchers, "black aircraft" fans (known as Interceptors) and conspiracy-mongers. Joining camouflaged U.F.O. mavens carrying lawn chairs and binoculars, Patton treks up Nevada's desert mountain ridges to peek over the perimeter of the vast base where so many mysterious lights have been seen. He profiles, too indulgently sometimes, eccentric U.F.O. eyewitnesses, like Bob Lazar. A self-proclaimed physicist, Lazar created a stir when he announced that he had worked on alien spaceships near Area 51. (Lazar also turned out to have been involved with a brothel and was subject to bouts of amnesia.)

If Lazar's and other U.F.O. advocates' stories seem to be just tall tales, Patton wants to know why U.F.O. mythology has become so ingrained in America's consciousness (the book is peppered with references to cultural figures like Jung, Freud and Joseph Campbell). And if it is all just a loopy myth, what about the photographs and videotapes of darting lights in the night sky?

For Patton, the answer lies partly in the hush-hush, multibillion-dollar development of experimental black aircraft tested at Area 51 (Dreamland is the name given by pilots to the restricted airspace over the base). Projects ranging from the U-2 spy plane to the F-117 stealth fighter were developed at Area 51 under the tangled aegis of a host of secretive Government departments, including the Central Intelligence Agency and the Strategic Air Command, and private contractors like Lockheed's so-called Skunk Works. In a scattershot narrative that shifts abruptly between anecdote and history, Patton evokes an idealistic, covert fraternity whose paranoia and disinformation seeped beyond the borders of Area 51. He suggests that stealth aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles may have been mistaken for U.F.O.'s and contributed to the notion of alien invasions and Government cover-ups.

THE U.F.O. myth, Patton says, mutated into a conspiracy theory, growing hand in hand with secret bases and the rise of the cold war: "The cultures of nuclear power and air power merged with the folklores of extraterrestrials and earthly conspiracies; their interference patterns formed a moiré of the weird."

In the 1990's, weirdness and aliens, as in "The X-Files," are in again. The 1996 movie "Independence Day" made Area 51 a household name, and now everyone is using Area 51's new cachet to cash in. (The road leading to the base has been renamed Extraterrestrial Highway.) But the tourists are arriving too late. By now the Government, Patton suggests in his closing chapters, has most likely moved its captured aliens and secret operations elsewhere. □

Glyn Vincent writes about culture and the arts.

Plan to move UFO museum strongly opposed

ANDREW POERTNER
RECORD STAFF WRITER

A poll conducted by the Daily Record indicates the plan to move the **UFO Museum and Research Center** out of the city is strongly opposed because of the economic impact it would have on the city.

Museum Director Deon Crosby announced the plan to move to a new multi-million **dollar** complex May 14. The new **site** would house a 30,000 square **foot gift shop**, a research facility, an archive and an interactive museum.

The first phase of the project would cost about \$7.5 million, and to start the project, the museum purchased 25 acres of land from United Continental New Mexico.

The poll asked **residents if they** believed the museum **should move** to a location about **six miles** west of town to the Buena **Vida subdivision** and if the move and expansion are good ideas.

Of the responses to the poll, 90 percent were in favor of keeping the museum in Roswell. Reasons given for the museum to stay in its current location were primarily due to the effect the move would have on Roswell businesses.

Respondents said the large number of tourists drawn to the museum also visit the downtown shops and stay in local motels and hotels. Should the center move, they respondents said a large number of

the tourist trade would not have a reason to visit Roswell.

Of the 10 percent in favor of the move, most said they want to see the museum grow into a larger, more modern research center, which would attract more visitors to the museum and provide more prestige to the museum as an important element in the field of UFO research.

There was a two percent segment of the poll that said they believe involvement in the UFO business has negatively affected the city, and would like to see the museum move as far from the city as possible.

Of the 90 percent who marked they didn't think the move and expansion are a good idea, most of the written comments said they would favor an expansion by the museum.

Alternatives to moving it out of the city included locating it in St. Mary's Hospital, on the edge of the city, using abandoned buildings in the south part of town and expanding it at its current location.

Ten percent of the responses said the move and expansion are a good idea.

Some of those against the move and their comments included:

• Pauline Blossom wrote, "The city has supported them in many ways and moving out will decrease the city's exposure. Tourists will now pass through Roswell rather than exploring businesses and the other museums and stores."

downtown **for your expansion.**"

• Carroll Martin wrote, "The Club House Restaurant would not make it in that area. The museum should support downtown Roswell. Maybe they should buy the entire block to the south of them as it becomes available and build there."

• Shirley Martin wrote, "The UFO Museum has been a real boon for Roswell, especially the downtown area. The tourists love the convenient location. Don't mess with success!"

• Jo Montgomery wrote, "What about taking the money you plan to spend and remodel St. Mary's into the UFO Center."

• Martha Novak wrote, "Downtown is building back up again and a lot of business would be lost if they moved."

• Alma Spence wrote, "I think the UFO Museum should be right where it is, so people coming out of town can find it and enjoy the city of Roswell."

• Anne Stevenson wrote, "Let's be reasonable and practical — not six miles west of Roswell. I feel the museum belongs in downtown Roswell. It's great for tourism — good and convenient for locals. I take all my visitors to the museum and they always buy downtown as do I. Use the space better and quit trying to push for more, more, more!"

• Curt Stevenson wrote, "Support downtown Roswell. Don't move.

What you have is fine, improve on it. I think a complex way out of town will go under."

• R.T. Wagner wrote it shouldn't move "because the hotels, restaurants and businesses downtown have supported the UFO Museum and if they move far out of town a great amount of business may go to Ruidoso or out of town."

Those in favor of the move wrote:

• James L. Beatty wrote, "Move it all to Aztec."

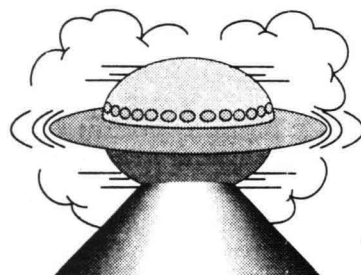
• Chuck Beauchemin wrote, "If Roswell is to maintain its own income-producing tourist attraction, it is necessary to have a location which will allow growth to build a major attraction."

• Lucille Green wrote, "If they are going to have it at all, taking it out of town is far better."

• Earl W. Morris wrote, "This move is an absolute necessity if our UFO Museum is to continue its growth, both in size and stature. Parking at the current location is woefully inadequate, especially for tour buses.

Spaces could be leased for a restaurant, a motel, a service station, a UFO-related merchandise mall, etc. Such a development would become a natural tour bus and tourist attraction."

• Roger and Agnes Winters wrote, "Also add an Imax Theater, about the same size as the one in the Alamogordo Space Center."



• Gerald Childress wrote, "The downtown area has a large number of business that are dependent on the museum visitors for their sale of UFO related items. Also, the revitalization of downtown has boomed since the museum moved to its present location."

• Mary Davis wrote, "If they want to expand they can purchase all the buildings from the old theater to the corner. Besides, the other merchants will be denied the business they would get by it staying in town."

• Anna Edwards wrote, "Why do they want to quit the downtown area when it is just beginning to grow. If the tourists are already 10 miles out of town, are they going to turn around and come back to Roswell, or go on to Ruidoso? They're already on their way, I think Ruidoso wins."

• Tom Kawczynski wrote, "Since the Civic Center and Art Museum are in the downtown area, let's keep the tourists and their money there. Use of the run-down buildings

UFOs unexplained, misunderstood

A man saw a bright object in the sky in the early 1960s.

The strange object was seen moving at tremendous speeds, performing dynamic maneuvers impossible for conventional airplanes or helicopters.

After a few minutes, the object vanished.

Several years later, the same man saw a similar object moving at tremendous speeds performing the same erratic flight patterns.

After two sightings man believes that unidentified flying objects are real. After reporting the cases to authorities, the man is convinced that the matter of UFOs is a global priority.

Is this person an overenthusiastic science fiction fan who has seen too many episodes of "The X-Files" or a backwoods farmer who also spotted Elvis and Bigfoot in the same week.

I have a particular interest in UFOs and the paranormal. I've never seen a UFO and I don't believe that every reported sighting or alien abduction is a concrete fact. But I've seen and heard enough reports to recognize that the UFO experience is a real phenomenon worth further



**JOHN
TOMMASINO**

study.

UFOs have been spotted in the sky since ancient times. Some have been explained as natural objects or revealed as elaborate hoaxes. Others remain a mystery.

Before jumping to conclusions that all UFO sightings are bogus reports of weather balloons, swamp gas or other explainable phenomenon, it's only prudent and logical to consider the source.

The UFO witness I referred to in this article is a credible source. He is former NASA astronaut and U.S. Air Force Colonel Gordon Cooper.

As a test pilot, Cooper reported seeing unidentified flying disks on more than one occasion. While orbiting the planet during the Mercury space program, Cooper reported seeing similar objects performing unbelievable flight maneuvers.

As a pilot and astronaut, Cooper was given top security clearance to the most sophisticated equipment available and spent hundreds of hours in flight.

This is someone I would recognize as an expert in the areas of aircraft, astronautics and physics. When someone with this much knowledge and experience says he saw something that defied rational explanation it carries a certain credibility.

Cooper later stated that he believed UFOs were spacecraft sent to study the earth by intelligent life from other planets. Cooper even

addressed the United Nations in the 1970s and encouraged a comprehensive global study of the phenomenon.

Despite the claims of Cooper and other credible witnesses, UFOs are still seen as a hokey subject.

People who report sightings are often ridiculed and not taken seriously. Yet if these same people were to witness a traffic accident or violent crime, their testimony would not be so quickly dismissed.

It seems like anyone who even has an open mind about the possibility of UFOs is labeled as a nutcase.

I'll be the first to apply skepticism to a case of a UFO, yet many so-called skeptics don't approach serious study from an unbiased perspective. They've already made up their minds before hearing the details of a case.

In many cases, the loosely defined axioms of common sense backfire. Common sense once dictated that the world was flat and that the Earth was the center of the universe. The religious authorities of the day often stood in the way of progress and persecuted scientists like Galileo for stating other possibilities and exploring them.

I don't pretend to have an explanation for strange phenomenon like UFOs. But I do believe that the subject is misunderstood and misjudged by the general public.

...

John Tommasino is a features writer and Health editor for The Sentinel.

DAILY DEFENDER, Chicago, IL - Aug. 18, 1998

South Siders claim they saw a "strange" UFO

by Chinta Strausberg

Several prominent residents of the Bellview/Morgan Park community Sunday said they saw a UFO outside their window, prompting Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3rd) to call for a federal investigation into the alleged incident.

Several women told the *Chicago Defender* they allegedly saw this "strange" UFO hovering over a house near the 10700 block of South Emerald around 5 a.m. Sunday. One witness was Barbara Irvin, a special events planner. She said she saw a UFO, as well as Zelia Morelon, a travel consultant, who lives six blocks from Irvin. There were others who also claim they too saw a UFO.

Tillman, who knows the women, called for a federal investigation.

"I'd never thought someone I knew would call and tell me something like this," Tillman said. "I know these women. This is a middle-class neighborhood and if there are any other witnesses, I'd hope they'll come forward because I know my friends are not crazy."

Tillman went out there to collect any evidence the alleged

UFO may have left. She wants to know if any special aircraft was out there.

"I don't think these ladies are crazy. I know them. They're so conservative and modest. We have to find out what happened."

"I'd never thought someone I knew would call and tell me something like this. I know these women. This is a middle-class neighborhood and if there are any other witnesses, I'd hope they'll come forward because I know my friends are not crazy."

—Ald. Dorothy Tillman

"It was not very high. I thought it was a helicopter, but it couldn't have been because there were some chattering sounds," Irvin said.

"It looks like that thing on the top of the John Hancock Building. It had tentacles, things that were sticking up. It was 5 a.m. I was looking out the window without the lights on. She was in her bedroom. I heard the noise — beep, beep, flapping noise."

Irvin said because of what she and her neighbors saw she's

reluctant to call police fearing they'll think she's crazy. "You never know who to tell," she told the *Chicago Defender*.

Morelon, a travel consultant, said she saw the alleged UFO too.

"I was asleep and a noise was loud. It sounded like a sick cow. People think that you're crazy," but Morelon said she knew what she saw. "It was just sitting right there," she said.

"I saw two round multi-colored lights that were flashing," Morelon said. "I pulled the blinds all the way back. I went into another room. I had my arms folded in the window sill. I looked until I got tired. It was doing nothing, but the lights were on and flashing at first."

"I saw two sets of lights. It was on something. It was not a helicopter," Morelon said. "This was still. It was hovering over. It was in the north east side from my window. I'm in the 1100 block of 107th Place near Aberdeen, which is six blocks from Irvin."

"I knew it wasn't a plane and

it wasn't a helicopter," Morelon said. The women said they were shocked at the UFO and didn't think to grab their cameras. Tillman is demanding to know just what was the alleged object was and said she believes it was a UFO sighting.



FOREIGN NEWS

[All British clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

Close encounters but no full monty

The truth is out there, or is it? PETER RHODES mixes with the UFO-folk – and is reminded of striptease

THE boom-boom music and dimmed lights makes the place seem more like a strip club than a lecture hall. Maybe that's appropriate. For the UFO story – and the industry it supports – is a kind of striptease of slowly-revealed nuggets of wisdom. You never really get to see what you want.

Some get fed up with waiting and leave. Twenty-five years ago the distinguished Black Country historian Graham Phillips was leader of a UFO group in Wolverhampton. He admits he's lost interest in it.

"With history," says the man who has researched King Arthur, Robin Hood and the pyramids, "you at least reach some feasible conclusion. The UFO people are still discussing exactly the same sort of thing they were 25 years ago."

But every new generation produces enough UFO fans, like these faithful assembled at Solihull Conference Centre, to keep the books and videos selling. They are a varied assortment of eager young students and cynical old grannies, with all sorts in between.

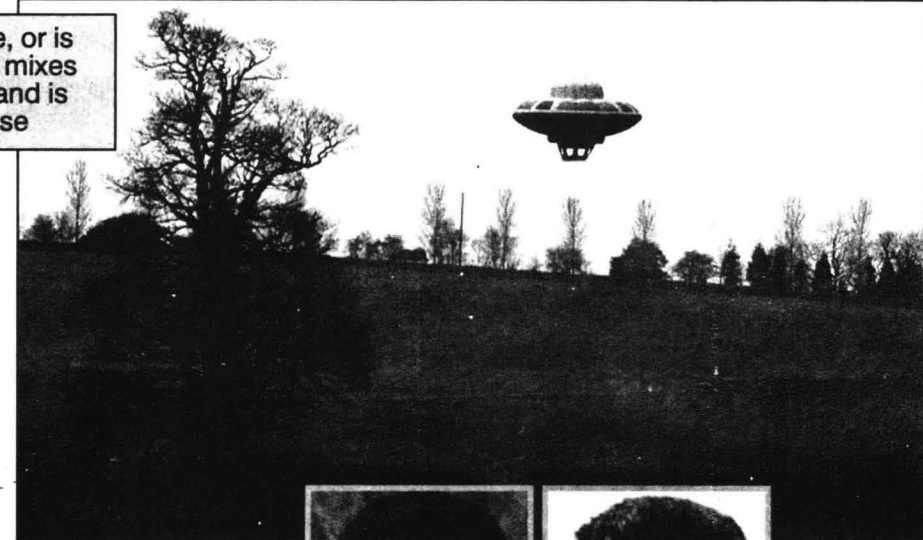
No hippies, however. This is not a mecca for the sandals and tinkling-bell brigade who see flying saucers in spiritual terms.

"There's nothing New Age about this," insists Mark Birdsall whose Yorkshire-based publishing company organises these conferences.

This is serious, nuts-and-bolts stuff. And it has to be said that some of the researchers' work is impressive.

Nick Redfern, a 33-year-old from Walsall, has been probing the UFO enigma since his teens and recently wrote *A Covert Agenda: The British Government's UFO Top Secrets Exposed*.

On stage he produces a slide show of a series of foolscap documents showing that for more than 50 years RAF pilots, radar operators and Joe Public have been seeing UFOs – in some cases as big



as ocean liners and flying in formation.

Redfern became interested in the theory of a UFO cover-up from his father, a former RAF radar operator who told him of high-speed encounters with unknown craft in the 1950s. Radar tapes were seized. RAF personnel were sworn to secrecy.

Only today, 30-odd years later, is the Ministry of Defence gradually releasing classified documents describing these encounters.

So far, Redfern has uncovered no documented meetings between aliens and humans. But he has a letter from the Public Records Office saying that some of the UFO documents are so sensitive that they may not be released for 50, 75 or 100 years.

ALL this is sweet music to the conspiracy and cover-up buffs who have paid £15 a head to attend this two-day conference.

And only a hard-boiled sceptic would dare to ask this: Why should we believe that any global cover-up (let alone one involving bright shiny objects in the sky witnessed by thousands of people), should have proved so watertight for 50



Graham Phillips (far left) and Nick Pope: historian Phillips lost interest in a UFO group while Pope has denied suggestions of a Ministry cover-up over sightings.

years, when it took a matter of months for the Russians to get the secret of the atom bomb and mere weeks for Bill Clinton's sexual tastes to hit the front page?

The fact is that human beings are not very good at keeping secrets. The image of RAF chaps being sworn to secrecy about flying saucers will raise a smile among many ex-servicemen who know that the best way to spread a secret is to tell a squaddie in confidence.

Nick Redfern's greatest coup has been to debunk the previous claimant to the job of chief UFO

whistleblower, Nick Pope.

Pope worked in the Ministry of Defence department which, he claimed, dealt with UFO reports. In his book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, he says there is no cover-up, but he challenges Whitehall's assertion that UFOs pose no security threat.

Redfern says that Pope got it wrong and that UFO reports are actually handled by the shadowy RAF Provost and Security Section, from whence come the "Men in Black" who visit UFO witnesses and put the frighteners on them to keep quiet. (As with the sworn-

Fooled you: police force switchboards were jammed when this "UFO" was spotted flying low over Shropshire by scores of people. It turned out to be a hot air balloon owned by Richard Branson.

to-secrecy squaddies, however, the witnesses seem only too eager to blab about the UFOs and the Men in Black).

Back at the striptease, Redfern reaches a triumphant climax to his presentation. The mood is changing in the corridors of power, he says. More and more documents are being released. The sceptics are shouting, because they know they have lost the case.

And just when you were hoping he was going to reveal all on stage, comes the tease. In just another couple of years, he says, the Government will release all the evidence.

IT is an impressive show, more so for being delivered in blunt Black Country tones, and I join in the applause. Who knows, he may be right.

But I couldn't help remembering my interview with Britain's foremost UFO writer, Timothy Good, who assured me that the US Government was on the verge of preparing the public for "the ultimate secret," that aliens had made contact with humans.

That was back in April, 1991. We are still waiting.

The Solihull conference breaks up and the faithful head for the memorabilia and literature stands where you can buy dozens of books, videos, cassettes and CD-Roms covering everything from crop circles to an autopsy on an alien body.

It is a reminder, whatever the facts, that the UFO craze is big business and that, as long as the mystery remains unsolved, the punters will keep coming. The loot is out there.

EVENING POST, Yorkshire, England - March 14, 1998

Real-life Fox joins effort to solve night sky puzzle

BY HOWARD WILLIAMSON

THE truth is out there – and when it comes to the pursuit of it, TV's Special Agent Fox Mulder is always hot on the trail.

Fans of the *X-Files* know that when it comes to the paranormal there isn't much the curious FBI agent misses.

And on a more down to earth note, the man who has been dubbed the Real Life Fox Mulder – former Government worker Nick Pope – has heard all about the latest UFO sighting in Leeds.

Last month two bright lights were seen hovering in the city sky. They were captured on film and when the *Yorkshire Evening Post* published photographs of them, it prompted a massive response from readers mystified by what they saw.

But the February 2 sighting – the biggest UFO incident in the city since the 1980s – is still unexplained – despite Mr

Pope's interest, an expert view from Leeds Metropolitan University and telephone calls to the Ministry of Defence.

An MoD spokesman said: "According to our records we didn't have any aircraft up at the time and it is unlikely we would fly over a built-up area at that time of night."

"We cannot give an answer except to say that it might have been an aircraft waiting for its turn to land."

But he said such an aircraft should have been displaying red and green lights.

A 22-second video film of the lights was shot by Ken Field, of Walkers Green, Lower Wortley, Leeds.

Andy Rackham, airfield services manager at Leeds/Bradford Airport, said there were numerous aircraft movements at the time of the sightings but the airport had no radar records of anything unusual.

Mr Pope, who used to man the UFO desk at the Ministry of Defence and later wrote a book about the experience called *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, said the film



● **STUDY:** Dr Paul Conway examined the video footage

should be examined by independent experts for analysis and enhancement.

"The camera can lie, although it might be fairer to say people misinterpret what they see."

He said nine out of 10 sightings could be explained rationally – but there was a

hard core which defied conventional explanation.

Dr Paul Conway, head of electronics, media and communications technology at Leeds Metropolitan University, has studied the video footage but doubts that they are extra-terrestrial craft.

"The quality of the film is very poor and it is difficult to say whether it has been 'doctored.' My personal view is that the lights are from man-made objects – perhaps military craft."

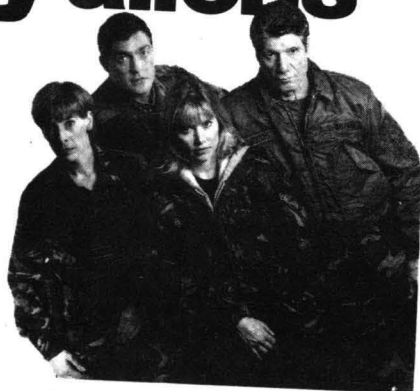
Dr Conway's verdict has not diminished the enthusiasm of Otley UFO researcher Mark Birdsall who produces *UFO Magazine*.

They say they have obtained evidence from over 100 witnesses who claim to have seen the two lights.

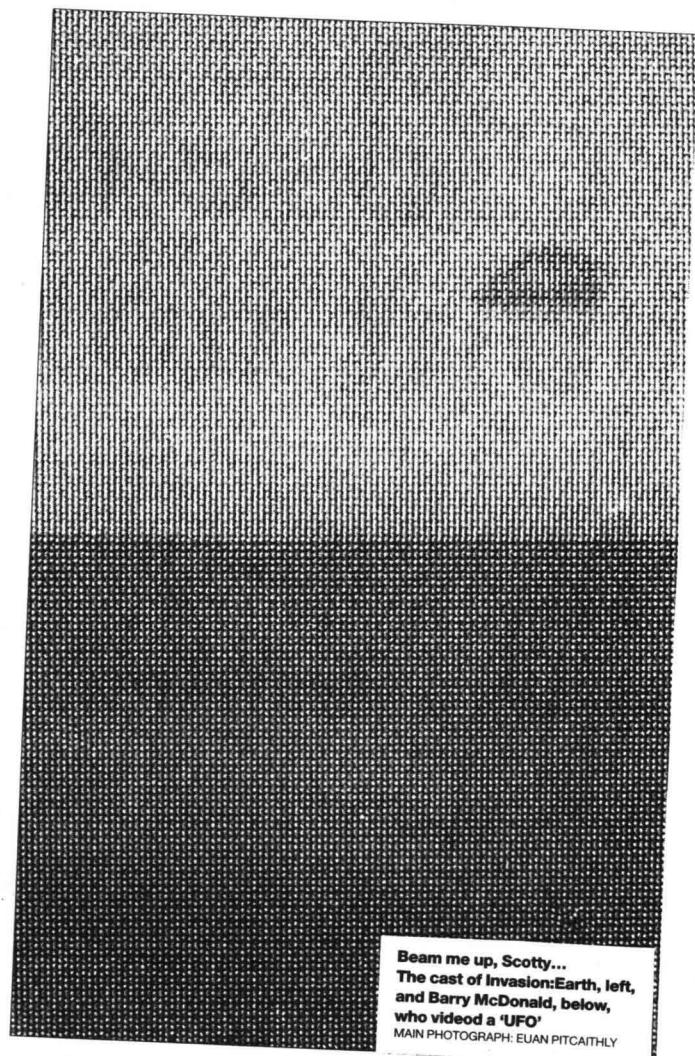
● UFOs will be on the agenda of unexplained phenomena which will be investigated at the National Museum of Photography in Bradford on Saturday, March 28 (10am to 3pm).

It may look like a flying blob, but to the people of a small Scottish town this is proof they are being buzzed by aliens

Eddie Gibb ventures into the 'Bonnybridge Triangle', spooky setting of BBC's new big-budget sci-fi series



Beam me up, Scotty...
The cast of *Invasion: Earth*, left, and Barry McDonald, below, who videoed a 'UFO'



It is perhaps no coincidence that Peter Mandelson's Dome at Greenwich will look like a glowing, white spaceship. With the dawning of a new millennium, it is not just the cranks who are looking skyward. "Most astronomers feel in their gut that there is life out there," says Archie Roy, emeritus professor of astronomy at Glasgow University, and a sometime sci-fi writer.

It is against this backdrop of popular alien paranoia, stoked by The X-Files, that the BBC is about to launch its own Roswell Incident-inspired sci-fi series on an unsuspecting world. *Invasion: Earth* does pretty much what it says on the tin. Over the next six weeks it will tell of how an RAF Tornado pilot, scrambled from a Scottish airbase, disobeys orders and shoots down an unidentified craft which buzzed his plane. The army recovers the UFO and its occupant in a remote corner of the Highlands. Needless to say, they don't exactly send out a press release.

The fact that the BBC located *Invasion: Earth* in Scotland is no coincidence. It may be science fiction, but there are plenty of people out there who find such stories plausible, particularly north of the border.

An Internet search for "Fife Incident" throws up the strange account from 1996 of a "close encounter" by several members of the same family. And then there is the so-called Bonnybridge Triangle, an area near Falkirk where an unusually large cluster of UFO sightings has been reported in recent years.

"As far as I'm aware, no members of air crew have ever seen anything they couldn't account for," says Flight-Lieutenant Jack Taylor of RAF Leuchars, where the air base

scenes in *Invasion: Earth* were filmed. Ah, say the conspiracy theorists, that's exactly what you would expect him to say. According to Nicholas Redfern, author of *A Covert Agenda*, which examined declassified military records relating to UFO sightings, "staff at [Leuchars] regularly track unknown objects operating in British airspace, and while such incidents are played down, details of all radar irregularities are logged and investigated accordingly."

Leuchars is the site of the RAF's Quick Response Alert, which has two Tornado F3s permanently ready to take off and would, according to Flight-Lieutenant Taylor, hypothetically be a likely base from which to launch an alien counter-attack. To that extent, at least, the premise for *Invasion: Earth* is factual.

But it was the idea that central Scotland had become a hotspot for UFO sightings which provided the inspiration for Jed Mercurio to write *Invasion: Earth*. Mercurio was sceptical, but it is easy to find believers. In Falkirk, a district councillor called Billy Buchanan has been cold-shouldered by colleagues over his determination to have the Bonnybridge sightings taken seriously.

"The fact is that I believe in the

credibility of 5,000 people that have come forward about strange things they have seen in the sky, and they want answers," he told a Scottish newspaper in January. Buchanan is now campaigning for the sightings to be officially investigated, and is considering taking a petition to Downing Street.

But perhaps there already has been an investigation. Nick Pope, a career civil servant at the Ministry of Defence, has written a book called *Open Skies, Close Minds* which details his work in Secretariat (Air Staff) Department 2A — aka, the UFO desk. Pope is still employed by the MoD, though in a different department, and his book was cleared for publication under the Official Secrets Act. In other words, he is not a whistle-blower and his book was published with tacit MoD approval.

According to the book, the MoD has long taken an interest in UFO sightings, though the official line is that there have been no threats to national security. After three years on the UFO desk, Pope is adamant that there is plenty of evidence from the military's own sources — pilot reports, and the like — to support the theory that a small percentage of

UFOs are extra-terrestrial craft. "I think it's a reasonable conclusion to draw from the data," he says. If Pope is a nutter, he is a nutter employed in the defence of the realm and was recently given a promotion.

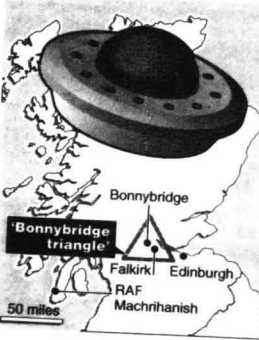
However, there's also a reverse conspiracy theory that the military deliberately allows the notion of UFO sightings to hang around to divert attention from the real business of covertly testing aircraft, which again puts Scottish air space in the frame.

Reports of a fast-moving aircraft near RAF Machrihanish on the Mull of Kintyre prompted speculation that a US plane dubbed "Aurora" was secretly landing at the base. Questions were asked in the House of Commons on the subject, though Aurora's existence was vigorously denied.

Like The X-Files's Fox Mulder, Pope is a believer, but one who is treated with a degree of suspicion by hard-core UFOlogists who assume that if the MoD is allowing one of its staff to spill the beans, they can't be terribly important beans.

Robert Digby, a director of the British UFO Research Association — which is probably the least paranoid organisation of this type — believes

Alien Alley



there are probably secret departments dealing with UFO reports which Pope is not even aware of. "He was effectively in PR and not necessarily privy to the big information," says Digby.

Pope denies this, but concedes the MoD is probably gaining some PR advantage from his book because it reduces the suspicion of a cover-up. But then, what better way to deflate a conspiracy theorist than by pretending to open your files.

Redfern's research for *A Covert Agenda* was mainly based on documents released under the "30-year rule", which takes us back to the height of the Cold War when the contents of an MoD bureaucrat's lunchbox was divulged only on a need-to-know basis. Though he tries to dispel any suspicion that reports of UFO sightings are still governed by military secrecy, Pope effectively admits that some documents are still classified as secret.

Even for the armchair conspiracy theorist, there is still plenty of scope for believing the UFO cover-up continues. Mercurio, who previously scripted the ultra-cynical hospital drama *Cardiac Arrest* remains agnostic on the subject.

As a medical doctor, he's probably more Dana Scully than Fox Mulder, but in researching the series he admits to becoming more convinced that there is something out there.

"When I was a kid I probably did believe in them, and then when I grew up I became quite dismissive," says Mercurio. "I think something did happen at Roswell which was evidential of alien visitation. But in terms of alien abduction, I couldn't say most of the testimony is believable and I think those people are probably mentally ill."

The Bonnybridge reports give *Invasion: Earth* a patina of credibility. And anyone who has ever had the peace of a walk in a glen shattered by

Locals have filmed strange things in the sky — but why aliens have taken a shine to Falkirk no one quite knows



an RAF fighter jet skimming the thistles will be aware of the amount of military activity in the Highlands.

The show has plenty of pseudo-science, but Mercurio pretty much sticks to his stated objective of giving the drama an internal logic so the viewer only has to swallow the original premise once. Given the number of reported sightings in Scotland recently, it makes perfect sense to do Independence Day over Fife.

"Or *Invasion: Perth, maybe*," jokes Mercurio.

SO I must have done something to upset Paul Dacre — but I don't know what. Maybe he was watching one of my TV shows and his watch broke, or his cat expired or something.

Paul Dacre is editor of the *Daily Mail*, and last month he printed a large picture of me under the banner, "Aliens In Our Midst?"

It wasn't my best picture. I admit that. I'm wearing a polo neck sweater, which my wife simply would not permit, so this must have been taken back in the Seventies before I married Hanna.

I hadn't shaved for three days, and by rings around my eyes I couldn't have slept for about three weeks. And my hair is wild — wild in that big, big Seventies way.

Remember Farrah Fawcett? Remember Huggy Bear? So this is what my hair looks like in the *Daily Mail*. My hair is wearing flares.

I ought to get even, find a photo of Paul Dacre in a convivial condition with his tie round his collar and the wrong end of his cigarette in his face, and publish it on my Internet pages under the headline, "Visitors from the Planet Newt".

But that wouldn't be quite fair.

Truth

Because the *Mail* really means it. It is genuinely asking the reader: does Uri Geller have an extra terrestrial link?

And the truth is... should I tell the truth?

These are strange days. The *Mail* carries a three page account of alien abductions, in full colour, over its centre spread, in its biggest selling issue of the week.

Saturday centres — money can't buy a spread like that. I'm truly delighted for the writer, my good friend Colin Wilson, with whom I've

URI GELLER NOT BENDING THE TRUTH Aged four, I saw the light



worked on numerous occasions throughout my career.

This is unbeatable publicity for his book, *Alien Dawn* (Virgin, £16.99).

There is no cynicism, no scepticism here. No hint of a sneer. Just look at their headline: "Can everyone who claims alien abduction be a lunatic or a fraud?"

"And how could one, a 14-year-old virgin, possibly have been pregnant? A leading British writer and criminologist set out to investigate — and came to believe the unbelievable."

Earlier last month, *The Sun* — Britain's most popular daily, with something like 10,000,000 readers — carried a very similar report. Again, the editorial line was serious and urgent.

The journalists expect their readers to approach with open minds, and depart convinced.

The same willingness to believe is appearing in

Israel. Look at the current rash of UFO sightings.

Credible witnesses are no longer being ignored. These claims are being reported seriously. Even more extraordinary was the serious attention granted to the Moshav Blob, a lump of green goo of possibly alien origin.

Or the earnest intent with which the Israeli media waited for a predicted mass UFO landing.

Deranged

Five years ago these stories barely scraped into the papers, even when they were heralded with hoots of derision.

One well known actress talked about an abduction experience, and was written off, brutally, as a woman deranged by mid-life hormone changes.

Twenty-five years ago my biographer who discovered me in Israel broached the subject of alien contacts — not abduction, just UFO sightings — and my career was almost destroyed.

For two years I had been testing the world's depths of open mindedness, demonstrating telepathy and psychokinesis on live television.

People believed in me, because they shared my experiences — my presence on TV made weird things happen in their own homes. But talk of aliens was too much.

No sane person could credit the idea of extra terrestrial visitations. Only a madman, the argument ran, would continue to give Geller credence.

Colin Wilson admits: "Uri, by Andrija Puharich, was so incredible that — in common with most people — I found it impossible to finish. I was inclined to wonder whether Puharich had invented some of the stories."

I distanced myself from the biography pretty fast. I issued my own version, playing down the out of this world stuff and emphasising the homely, spoon bending incidents.

It was the beginning of a

bad time for me. I became addicted to my own wealth, going on obscene spending sprees and almost killing myself with an eating disorder that had me gobbling everything on the menu each night before crawling into the bathroom to vomit it all away.

In the end, I had to retire from public life and restore my sanity in a Japanese hideaway.

Deserted

What if I had stood by the truth? What if I'd faced the world and said: "I have had encounters with beings who could not possibly be human."

"I believe my powers come, not from within, but from a source beyond the tiny confines of this planet."

"When I was four years old, an inexplicable urge led me into a deserted Arabic garden in Tel Aviv, and something happened to me there which might be explained by the words, 'Alien Abduction'."

I saw a light, a shining

disc in the sky. The light touched me. A figure stood before me, and it was not a human figure. Then I lost consciousness.

When I came to, many hours had passed. I ran home to tell my mother and, of course, she did not believe me. But I can date the emergence of my powers from that day.

What if I had revealed the extraordinary encounters both Andrija and I witnessed in Israel — and which we agreed to keep secret, knowing that we could be locked up as maniacs if we dared to breathe a word?

What if, what if. That's a child's game. The question is not whether I was right to be afraid of speaking out then. The question is whether I would be wise to speak out now. The question is how much longer I can live privately with what I have seen and experienced.

Is the international media truly opening its mind? Because if that is so, when they pose the question 'Are there aliens in our midst?' it is time to tell them the truth.

● Uri Geller's *Little Book Of Mind Power* is published by Robson Books at £2.50, and his novel *Ella by Headline Feature* at £9.99. Visit his website at urigeller.com and eMail him at urigeller@compuserve.com

MIRROR, Campbell River, B.C., Canada - July 15, 1998 CR: G. Conway

THE EVE RIVER UFO SCIENTISTS TURN THEIR EYES TO SAYWARD SKIES

SHARON BENNETT
MIRROR REPORTER

The truth is out here—yes, here, in Campbell River.

The report of a UFO near Sayward has piqued the interest of an internationally-renowned panel of scientists. The incident is so peculiar and inexplicable, says the Society for Scientific Exploration panel, it should be investigated further.

The UFO was spotted by Campbell River residents Hannah and Dave McRoberts in October 1981, although they didn't see it in the sky. While vacationing, Hannah took a picture of a mountain near Eve River, about 80 km north of Campbell River. When she had the film processed two weeks later, she found what looked to be a flying saucer hovering beside the mountain.

The McRoberts, who have never been UFO enthusiasts, were bewildered by the silvery disc-shaped object. They

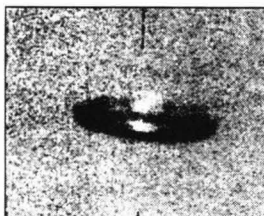
showed the photograph to friends and neighbors to see if they could figure out what it was, and then finally called Canadian Forces Base Comox. But CFB wasn't interested in looking at the photograph.

So they took the photo to the planetarium in Vancouver the following summer and allowed a researcher to make copies of it.

The negatives eventually made their way into the hands of NASA researcher Richard Haines, who came to the Island in 1983 to meet the McRoberts and investigate the scene where the photo was taken.

Haines confirmed that the McRoberts were on the up-and-up, and ruled out the possibility that the disc was just a Frisbee. After an extensive analysis of the negatives and the image, Haines concluded that flying object was indeed unidentifiable.

Last month, an international panel



Disc-shaped object in the sky (left) was captured in a 1981 photograph of a mountain near Sayward (below). It has evaded attempts to positively identify it as anything.
PHOTOS: JSE



concluded that the Eve River UFO, along with a half a dozen other inexplicable UFO sightings, should be further studied.

The panel was organized by Stanford University professor Peter Sturrock, under the auspices of the Society for Scientific Exploration.

"The UFO problem is not a simple one, and it is unlikely that there is any simple, universal answer," Sturrock writes in his report. But, he says, "whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying them."

Sturrock, a professor of applied physics, wants to make it clear that the panel isn't interested in the discovery of little green people from other planets. He says the scientists are "not convinced that any of this evidence points to a violation of known natural laws or

the involvement of an extraterrestrial intelligence."

The McRoberts, who still live in Campbell River, say they receive phone calls about their photo about every eight months. The photo is now distributed by a clearinghouse in England, and Hannah says it appears on at least 35 websites.

For her part, Hannah has washed her hands of the incident.

"There's not much to say," she said. "I was just taking a picture of a mountain."

Hannah was reluctant to discuss the incident. As Haines pointed out in his 1987 paper in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, the McRoberts don't have any interest in UFOs, and don't want to be perceived as UFO-fans.

"I personally don't want any notoriety with this," Hannah said.

The SSE panel, made up of scientists from the U.S., Germany and France, suspects some of the UFO reports may have been caused by "radar ducting" (the trapping of radar waves in atmospheric channels) or atmospheric electrical activity. Some, they say, might have involved covert military operations.

They're hoping to renew interest in UFOs among the scientific community.

Mainstream science turned away from UFO research after a 1968 report suggested that it wouldn't generate any advances in science.

Now, with new technology and more knowledge about natural processes, they believe more data from the UFO reports could lead to new scientific discoveries.

For more information on the Eve River sighting, other UFO reports and the SSE, visit the society's website at www.jse.com.

'UFO' sighting shock



The truth is out there...Lisa Hatten, aged 14, left, Stacey Hatten, eight, and Rebecca Cook, 15, are still looking for answers (Ref: F1164/31)

Picture: Julie Berry

Mystery of lights in sky

By Dave Roberts

INTRIGUED Bolton folk claim to have seen a series of unexplained lights in the sky above Bolton.

Amazed readers rang the BEN to report sightings of a huge circular object, as big as a pair of semi-detached houses and ablaze with lights, as it glided across the night sky in the Fernhill Gate area of Deane around 10pm on Monday.

BEN investigations to find a rational explanation for the sightings have drawn a blank.

Experts at Manchester Airport's Air Traffic Control Centre and the North West Meteorological Office say there were no unusual flights or weather conditions in the region.

Bolton teenagers Lisa Hatten, 14, and Rebecca Cook, 15, could have come closer to a UFO than anyone else in the town.

They say they watched the huge unidentified object as it slowly skimmed over the tops of houses near Lisa's home in Towers Avenue.

Lisa said: "It went quite close to us and I could see underneath it. There were lots of lights and it was circular. I saw what I saw, there's no doubt about it."

Lisa's mum and her friend, Cheryl Balmer, also spotted the mass of lights as they drove home from a night out.

Denise Hatton raced in to tell her family about what she had seen, only to find that her eldest daughter had beaten her to it.

Dropped

Denise says she and her friend had watched the UFO for five minutes before it dropped down behind trees at the back of Moorlands View, off St Helens Road.

She said: "We even got a camera and went back out in the car to see if we could see it again. The children have drawn pictures of what they saw. It was a lovely sight."

And Hindley man, John Anders and his wife also spotted the massive flying object as they drove home close to Beaumont Road, after a night of dancing in Bolton.

John, of Sandy Way, Hindley, said: "I'm teetotal and there wasn't any drink available at the dance anyway. It was an unbelievable sight. I know it's corny to say it but it was like something you see on the television."

"There were amber lights everywhere and it was shaped like an old-fashioned spinning top."

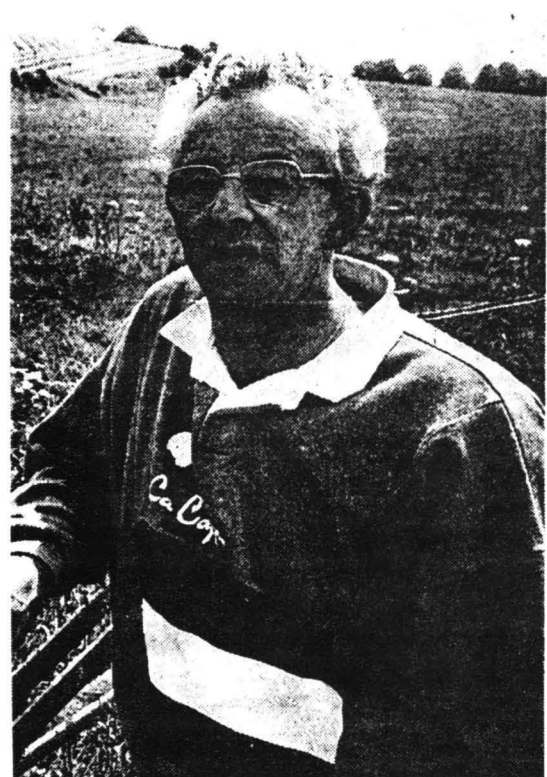
A Met Office spokesman confirmed that the sky on Monday night was clear and there were no unusual conditions.

An Air Traffic Control spokesman said: "As far as we are aware there was nothing reported to us about any sightings."

"There's no record of anything in the log book but if anyone sees anything they can contact us as soon as possible so we can check things out." A Ministry of Defence spokesman said no military aircraft had flown over the town on Monday night.

DORSET EVENING ECHO, Weymouth, England - April 21, 1998

Conference hears of Portland UFO reports



DAVID KINGSTON: UFO conference organiser tells of discs sighted off Portland and of UFOs diving into the sea in South America.

UFO investigators packed Dorchester's Corn Exchange yesterday to hear top speakers tell of strange sightings in the skies and alleged world-wide government conspiracies.

They came in their hundreds to witness for themselves video footage, compelling lectures and tales of UFOs sending out cryptic messages and keeping watch on mankind.

Organiser of the third annual UFO conference for Dorchester was ex-RAF serviceman David Kingston from Martins-town.

He said groundbreaking reports were being made available to the public for the first time, which attracted more than 250 people to the conference.

"Graham Birdsall, editor of the UFO magazine, revealed how reports were coming in world-wide of a strange new phenomenon. Unidentified objects have been spotted diving into water in areas around Brazil and Guatemala. Video footage was shown of this amazing sighting which has not previously been seen anywhere that I know of in this country."

Mr Kingston, who investigates UFO sightings and

By ALISON BIRKETT

crop circles has received several calls following a recent appeal for witnesses to UFO sightings over Maiden Castle.

Three people have come forward claiming to have spotted a huge triangular craft hovering above the Iron Age hill fort — taking the total number of sightings to eight, including a medical practitioner and a local vicar.

But there is further evidence that the truth is out there... on Portland.

Mr Kingston said: "Since the appeal eight people claim to have seen a cluster of discs over Portland."

"All the sightings have taken place early in the

morning, in broad daylight. The first was seen near the Portland Heights Hotel. A man called me to say he saw a cluster of round discs with the sun reflecting on the objects.

"Another four callers said they spotted something similar as they were driving into work along Weymouth seafront. HMS Osprey assured us there weren't any aircraft from the base in the area at that time."

Crop circles omen of future contact?

By Mary MacArthur
Camrose bureau

ST. PAUL, Alta. — They started out as ordinary flattened circles in the crop, but over the years crop circles have evolved into intricate rings, circles, lines and complicated mathematical shapes.

It's all part of our developing consciousness, Gordon Sopczak told a UFO conference held here recently.

Going from simple circles in a field to intricate snowflake or paisley designs is a sign we are finally ready to communicate on a more sophisticated level, he said.

"It's almost a conversation with humanity from the other side of the fence. It's a form of

communication using mathematical concepts." Most of these intricate crop circles are happening in the south of England around Wessex and Stonehenge, not Canada.

It doesn't mean the British are on a higher level than Canadians, but the Stonehenge area has historically been a communication centre. The area is also on one of the few lay lines around the earth, a type of magnetic power centre.

Each year the circles become more elaborate and are sometimes more than a quarter-mile long. One reported crop circle was not a circle at all, but a long length of flattened crop that looked like DNA in the typical double helix pattern.

"It seems like

they've got their finger on the pulse of where we're at technologically," Sopczak said, because soon after those circles appeared, Dolly the genetically engineered sheep was created.

Someone's up there

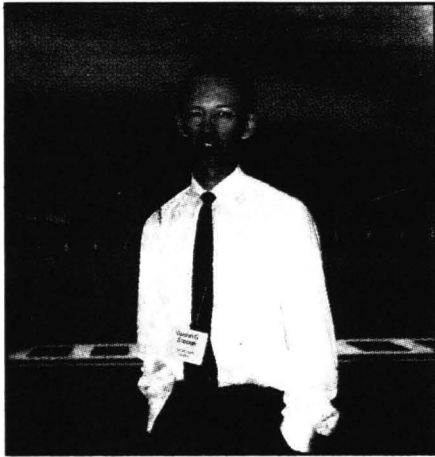
While Sopczak has never seen a crop circle, he has talked to people who have and that has convinced him most circles are created by a greater force, and not by people playing hoaxes.

The proof is in the way the crops are bent over but not broken, he said. It seems the water from cells on one side of each stalk is boiled off, causing that side of the plant to collapse, he said.

"Whatever force is doing this is so gentle not to even sacrifice the life of a plant."

Footprints are never found, he said, even though crop circles often appear in muddy fields. One hypothesis is they're created by some energy level.

"Somehow it's done by someone who doesn't have a body, like a dead grandma or on a totally different vibration level from us."



WP photo by Mary MacArthur

Gordon Sopczak studies crop circles.

The continuing chase after the paranormal

EXMOUTH JOURNAL, Devon, England - June 4, 1998

FIRST of all, a sincere apology to all regular readers of my articles in the *Journal*. My recent absence from this well-loved paper was not, despite current rumour, due to my having been abducted by malevolent alien forces (more's the pity, since this would prove my belief in UFOs!).

I'm sorry to say that the furthest from Exmouth that I have been is Southend! For the last few weeks, I have been busy on what is rather grandly called the "conference circuit".

Having attended these in Dorchester, London and Southend, my knowledge of the current UFO scene is better and more up to date than ever. Or, at least, that's the reason I give my wife to excuse my continuing absence!

It has, however, given me the chance to talk to some of the top names in the field, such as Nicholas Redfern, who was very interested in the 1950's sightings over Exmouth and has promised me to look into any information contained in recently released secret Government papers that might pertain to these sightings. I'll keep you posted on this.

I also had a chance to talk with an editor of a well-known national magazine, who is interested in publishing the story of last year's sightings over our part of the world. So, all in all, it has been a very interesting time.

FLYING TRIANGLES

In a recent article I referred to the absence of any flying triangles type of reports in our area (or FTs as they are called in UFO circles). This must have been a type of omen, because one of my first outings upon returning from my travels, was to a "skywatch" held on Woodbury Common on a recent Saturday night. All was quiet until 10.44pm, then, as myself and two other members of my group watched, a strange triangular type of craft came into view from the direction of Torquay.

The most noticeable thing about it was the total lack of any sound as it passed over the

Nigel Wright's Diary of the Paranormal



castle and headed towards Ottery St. Mary. It displayed three constant white lights, one on each apex of the triangle, with a rotating red light in the middle of the underside of the craft.

It did NOT, however, display any of the recognised navigation lights usually used on aircraft, namely red and green on each side. We managed to get a photo of this weird craft, so as soon as we get this analysed, it may prove to be very interesting. I'll let you know.

In the meantime, if you have seen this sort of craft over our area, then give me a call, on my new number that I will give at the end of this article. Thanks.

Mystery light in sky leaves anglers baffled

WESTERN MORNING NEWS, England - June 10, 1998

A GROUP of fishermen returned home from Pendower Beach, Veryan, at the weekend with a mysterious tale about the one that got away.

They claim that, at around 9.15 pm on Saturday, they witnessed a strange light in the night sky which behaved in a "very peculiar way."

The heavenly light, they say, was like "a steadily glowing silvery, yellow star with no definable shape or sound."

After approaching from the south west it apparently hovered above them at an altitude of between 500 and 100 feet before moving slowly across the bay towards another group of fishermen.

The object was said to do a 90 degree turn before disappearing into clouds and finally moving across the sky in the direction of Falmouth.

Dave Gillam, of the Cornwall Unidentified Flying Object Research Group, said that no other sightings of the mystery light had been reported. He would like to talk to anybody who experienced anything similar on the night in question.

They are urged to call him on 01872 276381.

Couple ask: Did anyone see UFO?

TIMES GUARDIAN, Sheerness, England - May 7, 1998

A SHEPPEY couple believe they spotted a UFO late on Sunday April 25, hovering low over Telegraph Hill, Halfway.

Now they are wondering if anyone else saw anything unusual in the sky that night.

Eunice Cole, of Minster Road, Halfway, and her husband, Ted, a taxi driver, who was in a separate car immediately ahead of her vehicle, both saw the object.

Mrs Cole said: "We had been visiting our daughter in Sheerness — the taxi had just been repaired, so we each had our own vehicles

— and were coming back along Halfway Road towards the traffic lights about 11pm, and we both saw what looked like a plane coming into land.

"I thought: 'That's funny, there's nowhere here where a plane can land. I wondered if it was a helicopter but I could hear no noise and I drive with my window wound down.

"Nearer the traffic lights, I could see it hovering, quite low, with white, red and green lights. The white light was stationary, with the others flashing."

Prince George skies offer strange sights

by COREY KEEGAN
Special to The Citizen

A Prince George woman and her friend were having an evening coffee when they saw something in the sky they couldn't explain.

On Aug. 5, around 9:30 p.m., the woman, who wishes to go unnamed, spotted a strange object hovering to the east of downtown Prince George in the direction of the airport.

She described the object as bright orange with a white hue. It was glowing and then took on shape as it moved towards the earth. It was in the sky for about ten minutes before vanishing.

She originally dismissed it, but her husband, who works at the airport, said radar had picked something and the airport tried to hail the craft before it disappeared over Tabor Lake.

Airport officials said no such incident took place.

In the opinion of one man, the best photograph of a UFO the world has ever seen was taken in Prince George.

Earlier this year, Gavin McLeod, who lives in the Lower Mainland, returned the call of a Prince George woman who didn't just see something, she had a picture.

"When she called she was very nervous and apprehensive. . . but I reassured her and then she told the story," said McLeod, a member of UFOBC, a group of flying saucer enthusiasts.

The woman, whose anonymity McLeod is protecting, was in her backyard with her son on June 24, 1997. There was daylight. She was taking some photos of her son as he released a pet reptile he had found and kept as a pet. She then returned to her home, passing the camera to her son, said McLeod.

Moments later, the 11-year-old boy heard a noise in the sky. He looked up and snapped a photo. The object moved. He shot again.

"A photo like this is extremely rare," said McLeod. "If it's legit, it's the best ever taken in the world."

UFOBC has a copy of the negative, and has also sent duplicates for second inspections. McLeod is anxiously awaiting the results of those examinations.

Copies of both photographs can be viewed on the Internet at:

www.ufobc.org

The day after the 1997 sighting, The Citizen ran a page one story detailing what a Kelly Road Secondary School student saw in the sky.

The young man described an object too fast to be a plane, close to the ground, and travelling east towards Jasper.

UFOBC is interested in all sightings. You can call their hotline at 1-604-878-6511.

CORNISHMAN, Penzance, England - April 2, 1998

sighting of a UFO

CORNWALL'S UFO Research Group has reported a sighting of an unusual cylindrical object in the sky over Truro on Tuesday.

The group was contacted by a woman who says she saw the UFO between 4pm-4.15pm while waiting in her car for her son to come out of Treyew School. "It was a cloudy sky, and she saw the black, cylinder shape between two houses. It had no tail fin and no wings," said David Gillham of the UFO research group. He said the woman's son had also seen the object from the school football field. Mr Gillham would be interested to hear from anyone else who saw the UFO and he can be contacted on 01872 276381.

Witness appeal after UFO sighting

A FORMER British Aerospace worker has appealed for witnesses after a UFO was seen flying over Bovey Tracey.

Roy Dutton, who worked in the company's future projects department, has been researching unidentified flying objects for 30 years. He said the sighting at Bovey Tracey last month is one of the most exciting he has heard of.

A security guard at a business in Newton Road, Bovey Tracey, reported a UFO sighting to police on April 23, at

10pm. The local man, who did not want to be named, said: "I was completely stunned when I saw it."

"It was very large, flying fast at tree-top level. Other people must have seen it."

He said the boomerang-shaped object was the same size as a jumbo jet, around 200ft in length.

It was flying very low and completely silent and had a pair of red lights which were flashing in unison. The underside of the craft was panelled.

Mr Dutton said: "I have spoken to the man and he is convinced about what he saw. I am very excited about this sighting, it is consistent with other sightings all over the world."

Mr Dutton wants anyone who saw the object to telephone him on 01803 326628.

Costa Rica giving UFO fans good vibrations

BY ACAN-EFE/T. KEEL
Wire service/La Nación

SAN JOSE — Costa Rica will be the distinctly earth-based venue, today through Sunday, for the "International Congress on Extraterrestrial Life", at which UFO experts from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, the USA, Peru, Spain, China and many other countries are expected to materialize.

The conference is being organized by the World Rainbow Association (AMAI in Spanish), who are studiously preparing themselves for the new millennium.

For those who have somehow missed the news, the Earth is scheduled to enter the fifth dimension as of January 1, 2000. Naturally, membership of the fifth dimension will bring the planet all the standard benefits: a greater understanding and knowledge amongst human beings and an accelerated spiritual growth for all mankind.

Costa Rican Elias Muñoz, one of the organizers and a member of AMAI, explained to press why his country was chosen: "Costa Rica is a country that generates positive energies," towards the rest of the planet.

As evidence for Costa Rica's good vibrations, Muñoz cites the tradition of peace, the 1948 abolition of the army and the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the ex-president Oscar Arias in 1987.

It seems that UFOs are attracted to countries exhibiting a high degree of spiritual development. The pacifism of Costa Rica, combined with its progressive outlook on the protection of the environ-

ment, sends out "signals" (according to Muñoz) that your average UFO just can't resist.

He highlights the recent Unidentified Flying Object sightings in and around the San José area, some of which have been in full daylight. For Muñoz, these sightings are unequivocal proof, "that extraterrestrials are looking to make contact, given the fact that we are about to enter an era of transition towards a highly intense spiritual change; to wit, the fifth dimension."

It seems clear, then, that ET and friends are hoping to join in the fifth dimension party in the year 2000: however, Muñoz did not mention whether any hospitality arrangements are being made for our imminent guests.

Organizers say that during the Congress scientific evidence about the UFO phenomenon will be presented, including videos and recent photography of the latest sightings from around the world.

Naturally, other topics such as, "telepathy and inter-dimensional contact", "Extraterrestrial contact within the Cosmic Plan", "Extraterrestrial beings" and "Interplanetary Chronicles" will not be ignored. Those wishing to welcome the aliens with a telepathic greeting are advised to attend, that they may brush up on their techniques.

Amongst those to attend will be Argentines Dante Franch and Rodrigo Fuenzalida, Peruvian Sixto Paz, Chilean Juan Valdez, Spaniards Maite Ramos and Pablo Villarrubia, Mexican Mario Torres and American Ted Andrews.

Furthermore, assistance will be provided by Sun Chi Li, of China. The Dalai Lama's representative will by Dyami Iwahoo.



Believers keep tracking elusive Bigfoot

■ **Sightings:** Groups report the beast's footprints, screams and stench in the West.

By LAUREN DODGE
The Associated Press

MOLALLA — A seasoned Bigfoot enthusiast, Charles Baker knew the signs: the matted grass, the twisted branches, the stench that set the dog off and the shrill scream that made it silent.

It was late one February night, and Baker was wandering through the woods along the lower Molalla River. He didn't see the beast. But the 28-year-old security officer and outdoorsman believes he had a close encounter with the creature also known as Yeti, Yayoo, Skunk Ape or Sasquatch.

"It's out there, and it's a lot more intelligent than people realize," Baker said.

After all of these years, reports of the elusive giant continue to trickle in from the forests of the Northwest, the foothills of Ohio and the swamplands of Florida. And despite the persistent lack of hard evidence, investigators continue to dog the beast, risking savings and reputations on their belief that Bigfoot exists and that they will find the evidence to prove it.

"I have every confidence it will happen," says Ray Crowe, founder of the Western Bigfoot Society, a Portland-based nonprofit that is considered the largest of its kind. "I'm just concerned someone else will beat us to it."

Crowe estimates that between 50 to 100 researchers are actively pursuing the creature around the world, using sophisticated search tools ranging from infrared cameras to DNA-retrieving dart guns and seismic sensors.

Still, the most conclusive evidence on record is the primitive 1967 footage known as the Patterson film, which shows a blurred and jerky image of what appears to be a large, hairy beast running through the woods.

"No one can knock that picture," Crowe said.

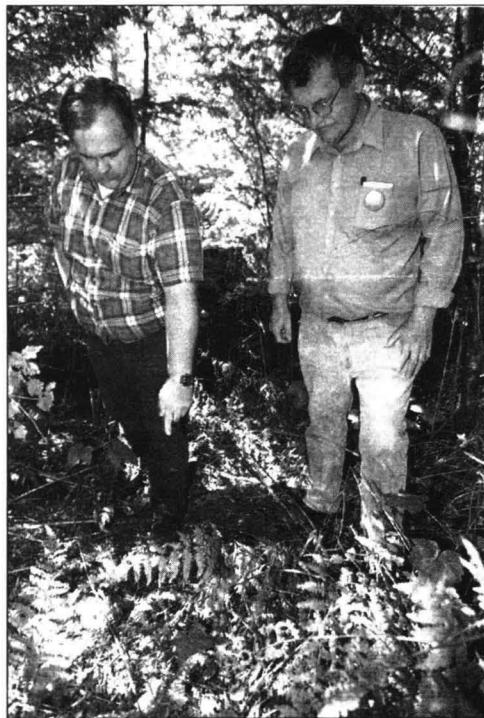
These days, with the technology to alter film and video easily and realistically, bigfooters know it will take more than footage to prove the beast exists. They need a body — dead or alive.

"That's the only way," Crowe says.

Crowe, 60, has been looking for Bigfoot since 1991, when he began transforming the basement of his used bookstore into a Bigfoot museum and meeting place. The society was born, quickly growing to 250 members, and Crowe began to publish the Track Record newsletter every month.

It was Crowe who took the call about some strange goings-on near Molalla. Baker, who has hunted in the area since he was a child, believed he had come across the spot where a Bigfoot creature had made its bed at the base of clear-cut ridge.

Several months old by now, the giant footprint Baker saw pressed into the ground was long gone. After ducking through a thicket for a closer look, Crowe concluded that the matted grass was more than likely made by a camper's sleeping bag. The broken branches were clearly cut by machete.



Charles Baker (left) shows Ray Crowe a patch of matted grass near Molalla where he claims Bigfoot slept.

Still, there was no explaining the eerie scream that echoed through the canyon. Or the stench, which is often reported along with a sighting.

And it wasn't the first such report in the area. In 1992, Sharon and LeRoy Jones were camping nearby when they say they heard something banging on the cage of their pet rabbits. Then they saw a Bigfoot dart back into the bushes.

There are dozens of accounts on the Internet:

- In Portland last year, a student reported seeing a Bigfoot while videotaping a class project near the Washington Park Zoo, although his father believed the sighting was an excuse for losing his new video camera.

- Near Colton southeast of Portland in 1995, a bow hunter sensed he was being followed, turned and saw a Sasquatch staring at him about 25 feet away.

- At a logging camp near Detroit, a small town southeast of Salem, in 1970, a 16-year-old girl reported seeing a Bigfoot with breasts stealing meat from the family's cooler.

Sightings haven't been limited to the Northwest. There is an active Bigfoot society in Ohio, where one man recently claimed to have videotaped a white Sasquatch. In

Florida, recent reports of the "skunk ape" can be found on the Internet.

Crowe writes up nearly all the sightings in his newsletter, although he warns readers to keep on their "skeptical" and is leery of reports that link Bigfoot with UFOs, psychic connections and different dimensions.

"You don't throw out data," said Crowe. "You never know if it will be the thing that gives you something new."

Their greatest obstacle is not weeding through sightings, but getting information about them in the first place. Often, people hesitate to come forward because they're too embarrassed or don't know whom to call, he said.

Publicity helped boost the Western Bigfoot Society's exposure in recent years, and reports had begun to roll in with more frequency. But they've slowed in the last year, after the fire marshal banned meetings larger than 10 people and Crowe decided to shut the store down.

He hopes to replace it with a stand-alone Bigfoot museum, which he plans to build along Interstate 5 as soon as the funding is found.

Members of the group still meet weekly at a north Portland restaurant, where on a recent Tuesday they got into a lively debate about the sounds Bigfoot makes, or whether he makes them at all.

They're a diverse bunch: an archer who once heard unidentifiable screams on Dixie Mountain in the 1970s; an industrial pump salesman who has taken to baiting Bigfoot with Spam in steep canyons throughout Northwest forests.

And there's Peter Byrne, who with his khaki clothing, field vest and silk ascot, would look more at home on safari than in suburbia.

For five years beginning in 1992, Byrne led the Bigfoot Research Project, the most technologically advanced search for Bigfoot in history. Funded by a \$1 million grant from a benefactor who wished to remain anonymous, Byrne and two assistants were equipped with a Jeep, police gear, military search equipment and a toll-free phone number.

But they never got a timely sighting. The closest they came was a 31-day-old report from a policeman who believed he saw a Bigfoot walking along the Oregon Coast. Any evidence was gone by the time investigators got there.

The project ended last year, and Byrne is still working to drum up more funding to continue the work. In the meantime, he and the others continue the search on their own time with their own money.

Their motives vary. A few are all too aware of the fortune to be made if the creature is ever proved to be real. Some just want an excuse to spend time in the woods.

But most say they're motivated by the mystery.

Todd Neiss, 37, has no doubt he saw three Bigfoot creatures during a 1993 demolition exercise with the National Guard — a sighting corroborated by three others.

"If people don't believe me, that's their problem," said Neiss, now a vice president of a transportation company. "My point to find these animals is not to say 'Told you so.' It's because I'm so fascinated and intrigued, I have to see them again."

WESTERN PRODUCER, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada - July 23, 1998 CR: G. Conway

Are extra terrestrials the culprits?

Mutilations not prank, not predators: sleuth

By Mary MacArthur
Camrose bureau

ST. PAUL, Alta. — For more than an hour, Fernand Belzil showed slide after slide of mutilated cattle with missing faces, cut-out tongues, surgically removed teats and missing rectums.

At the end of the presentation, the 300 people in the audience were no closer to an explanation for the mutilations, but Belzil hoped he'd shown enough to convince his audience that cattle mutilation is a real and growing problem.

"UFOs I've never seen, but the mutilation has happened right here in front of our eyes and something or someone is doing it," said Belzil, at St. Paul's UFO and cattle mutilation conference.

Belzil has never seen a UFO, but with the evidence he has encountered, he believes the mutilations are not caused by cults or predators, as many believe.

"With all the ones I've investigated, it's just not a joke."

Belzil became involved in cattle mutilations with the first mutilation call to St. Paul's 1-800 number, 1-800 SEE UFOS.

As part of a centennial project in 1967, the northeastern Alberta town built a landing pad for extra terrestrials. Two years ago it

added the toll-free UFO number and this year it sponsored a conference.

When the mutilation call came in, economic development officials thought an experienced rancher should investigate. They asked Belzil, who had raised purebred cattle and worked as a cattle judge, to drive to Saskatchewan and look into it.

Since then Belzil has investigated more than 30 cases across the Prairies and he sees a pattern in the mutilations.

At most sites, he finds an animal on its back with its tongue and part of its face removed. Often the genitals and teats are cut away, as well as part of the area around the anus.

When Belzil looks closer he often sees the skin cut away in a signature shaped like an M.

"They look like surgical cuts," he said, because the skin is peeled away from the body in straight lines, not ragged as though an animal had ripped it off.

Many skeptics, including veterinarians,

RCMP and insurance investigators, dismiss Belzil's theories of mutilation and instead blame it on predators.

"I guess the predator is an easy way out. They don't bother with the facts," said Belzil.

He is convinced the mutilations are caused by something other than predators because of the precision-like way the skin is removed and the tongue cut out.

"A predator would not just eat the hair and hide," He added in all the mysterious mutilations animals are missing their tongues, which leads him to suspect there is something in the cattle blood and tongue desirable to the mutilators.

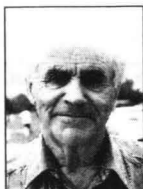
He has also noticed other common signs.

There is usually little or no blood at the sites and often he sees two or three small circles of hide removed.

"I'm not sure if this is how they're killed or how they get the blood out," he said of the circles. "There's something to the spots, I'm sure. I'd be very surprised if I'm not onto something."

"I'm not sure if this is how they're killed or how they get the blood out. There's something to the spots, I'm sure."

— Fernand Belzil, investigator



During a recent American cattle mutilation conference, Belzil was the only investigator who had noticed the bare circles on the cattle, but he said that's not surprising since the majority were city slickers, not experienced cattle producers.

Belzil has investigated mutilations from British Columbia to Saskatchewan, but the area with the most cases is north of St. Paul, at Mallaig. "It's just unreal what's happening around there."

There have been more than a dozen mutilation reports from the small farming area.

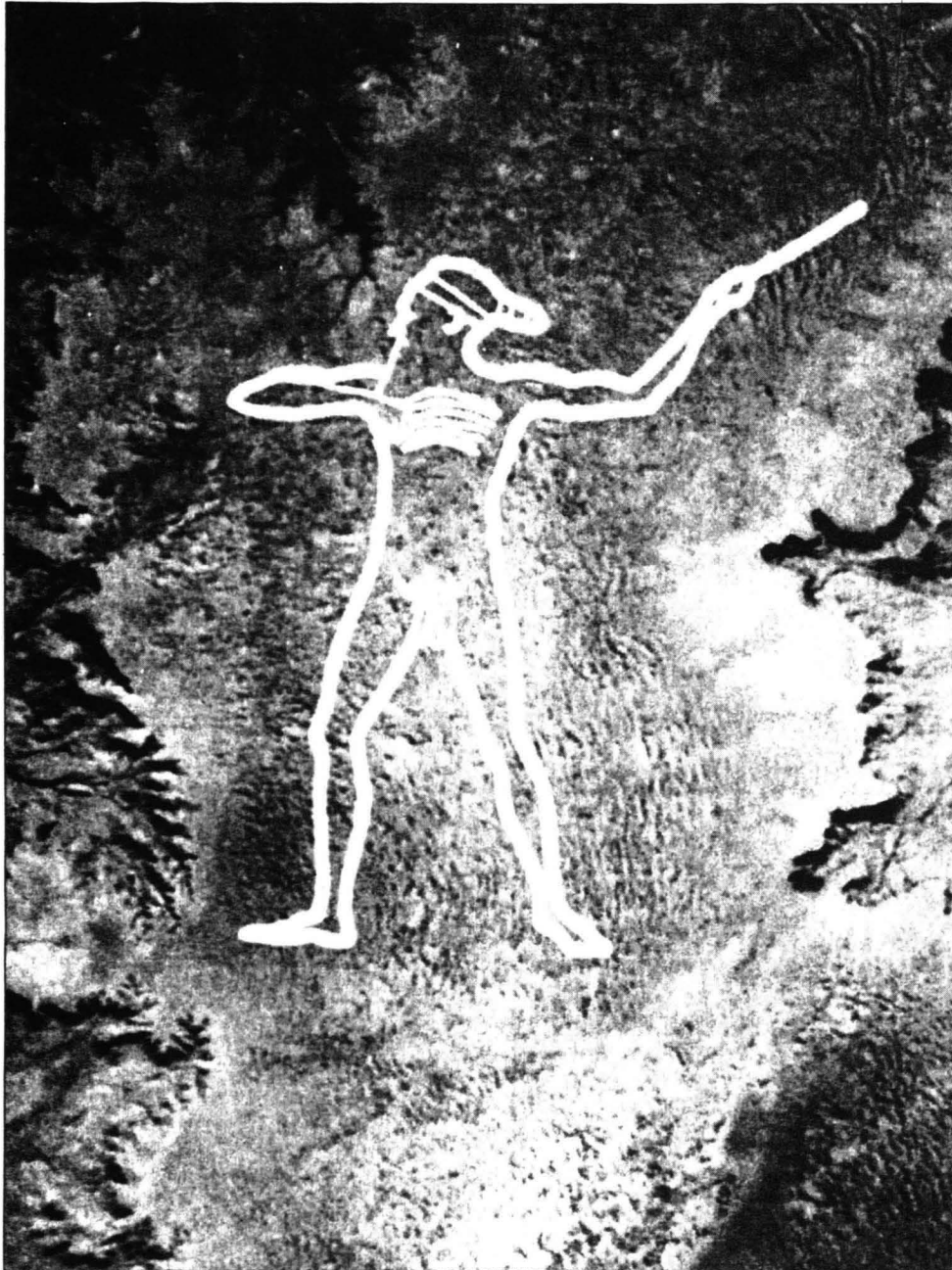
Belzil has no explanation for why mutilations are more common in the region, but some locals are considering setting up a type of crime watch to curb them.

While many non-believers may think Belzil a bit odd to spend so much time investigating what to some is obviously predator damage, he is not considered a nut case in the community, said Paul Pelletier, conference chair.

"They certainly don't make fun of him. They give him a lot of respect," said Pelletier, who traveled with Belzil on many of the early mutilation cases when Pelletier worked with the local chamber of commerce.

The number of mysterious death cases has grown to such proportions that many local producers look to Belzil for help, he said.

Who did it? The army, miners, the Americans or a crazy local? As a tribal feud erupts, the mystery of Marree Man deepens



An enhanced satellite view of the Marree Man, a mysterious image on a remote South Australian plateau.

By PENELOPE DEBELLE

The creators of the Marree Man, a four-kilometre drawing of an Aboriginal man on a remote chalk plateau in South Australia's outback, have blundered into a long-running tribal feud over land ownership.

The ploughed figure, 60 kilometres from the town of Marree, is on land at the centre of a bitter dispute between the Arabunna and Dieri Mitha people.

The Dieri Mitha people are suspicious that rival interests may be involved in the appearance of the mysterious figure.

"There are only two areas you can get up (to the plateau) on," said a Dieri Mitha spokeswoman, Ms Raelene Warren. "You'd have to be a local to know how to put the machinery up there."

Coincidentally, the Dieri Mitha's claim to a large tract of land in the state's far north, which includes the Marree Man plateau, will be heard in the Federal Court tomorrow.

The battle for ownership of the land has been before the National Native Title Tribunal for three years and is part of a feud that has caused bad feeling in the mainly Aboriginal town. In January 1995, tribal violence in Marree left a young man dead and several Aborigines injured.

After a two-week rush of media and tourist interest in the carving, feeling is divided in Marree over whether foliage should be allowed to grow over the figure, or whether it should become a tourist attraction.

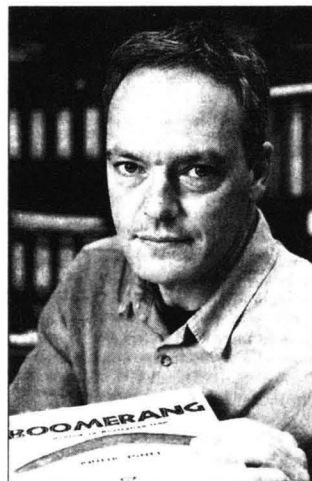
There is local business support for making it a permanent fixture by



An Aborigine in a similar stance to the mystery desert etching.

digging the carving deeper to expose the chalk base beneath. A publican, Mr Peter McGuire, has put up \$10,000 to help keep the figure. "We've got an opportunity to get a world wide tourism thing," Mr McGuire says. "We don't need any of the hate bit coming out. The town has been quiet as a mouse for the last four years. We've had all that and we've got something positive we can work on here."

The origins of the drawing remain a mystery, but the language of the first



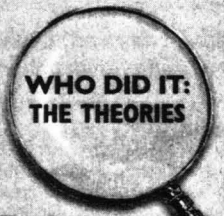
Dr Jones is critical of parts of the drawing. Picture: BRYAN CHARLTON

anonymous fax sent to Marree businesses and the Adelaide media suggests the author was American.

Terms used included "railroad" for railway, "reservations" for Aboriginal land and the use of feet and inches rather than metric measures.

But as a work of art, or a representation of Aboriginality, the drawing has attracted criticism.

An anthropologist with the South Australia Museum, Dr Philip Jones, who has written a book on boomer-



**WHO DID IT:
THE THEORIES**

► **The Army:**
A group of army engineers were recently in the area working on an ATSIC community assistance project. An army investigation ruled them out because they were at least 200km away, they were working under supervision and did not have the time or the equipment.

► **A contractor:** Western Mining Corporation has a pipeline through the area, has made its own investigations and found nothing. The nearest worksite was about 70km away and involved two men with one utility.

► **Woomera workers:**
Woomera rocket base has the necessary satellite equipment but not the tractor and ploughs to go with it. The United States presence on the site through Kistler Aerospace began only last week.

► **A local:** Any suspicious activity would have been noticed and no one in Marree has satellite navigational expertise. Also no white person living in Marree would have dared to show such disrespect to Aboriginal land.

► **An outsider:** Probably a well-intentioned joke by someone with time, money or the use of facilities. One of the locals recalls a white truck with a plough disc on the back parked at the hotel three months ago. It is also possible to get to the plateau on the road from Woomera without passing through Marree.

angs, said the figure was cartoon-like and probably copied from a school textbook.

It was culturally incorrect on a number of grounds including the placement of ritual scarring and its oddly shaped chignon, he said.

The naked man, drawn with disproportionately large genitals, is in the correct stance for throwing a boomerang but the object in his hand is not clearly displayed. Dr Jones believes it is a boomerang, but the creators may not have realised this.

There is a remote chance the item was meant to be a native spear-thrower, known as a woomera, which would create a link with the nearby Woomera rocket development project, but Dr Jones says the stance is wrong and there is no spear.

"I think the ambiguity is created because the person or persons don't have any knowledge of what Aboriginal natural culture consists of," Dr Jones said.

Dr Robin McLachlan, a Canadian academic who was camping nearby when the drawing was discovered, is outraged at the "paternalism" of the gesture.

"It's as if someone came along and spray-painted a great big picture in your backyard because it would be good for tourism," said Dr McLachlan, who is based at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, New South Wales. "Nobody asked their permission and it has gone on to land that's up for land claims between two different Aboriginal groups. It's very complicated."

Researcher's subjects prove elusive

● Loren Coleman of Portland is a national expert on the pursuit of Bigfoot, Yeti and sea serpents.

By WILL BARTLETT
News Assistant

Loren Coleman dreams that in his lifetime, someone will make the discovery that legitimizes his life's calling.

Maybe it will be a black panther. Maybe it will be an Indian devil — an upright, ape-like creature with red eyes. Or maybe it will be "Cassie," the legendary sea serpent of Casco Bay.

"I'm not interested in ghosts or UFOs. I'm interested in tangible biological species. These are not wisps of smoke that I'm pursuing."

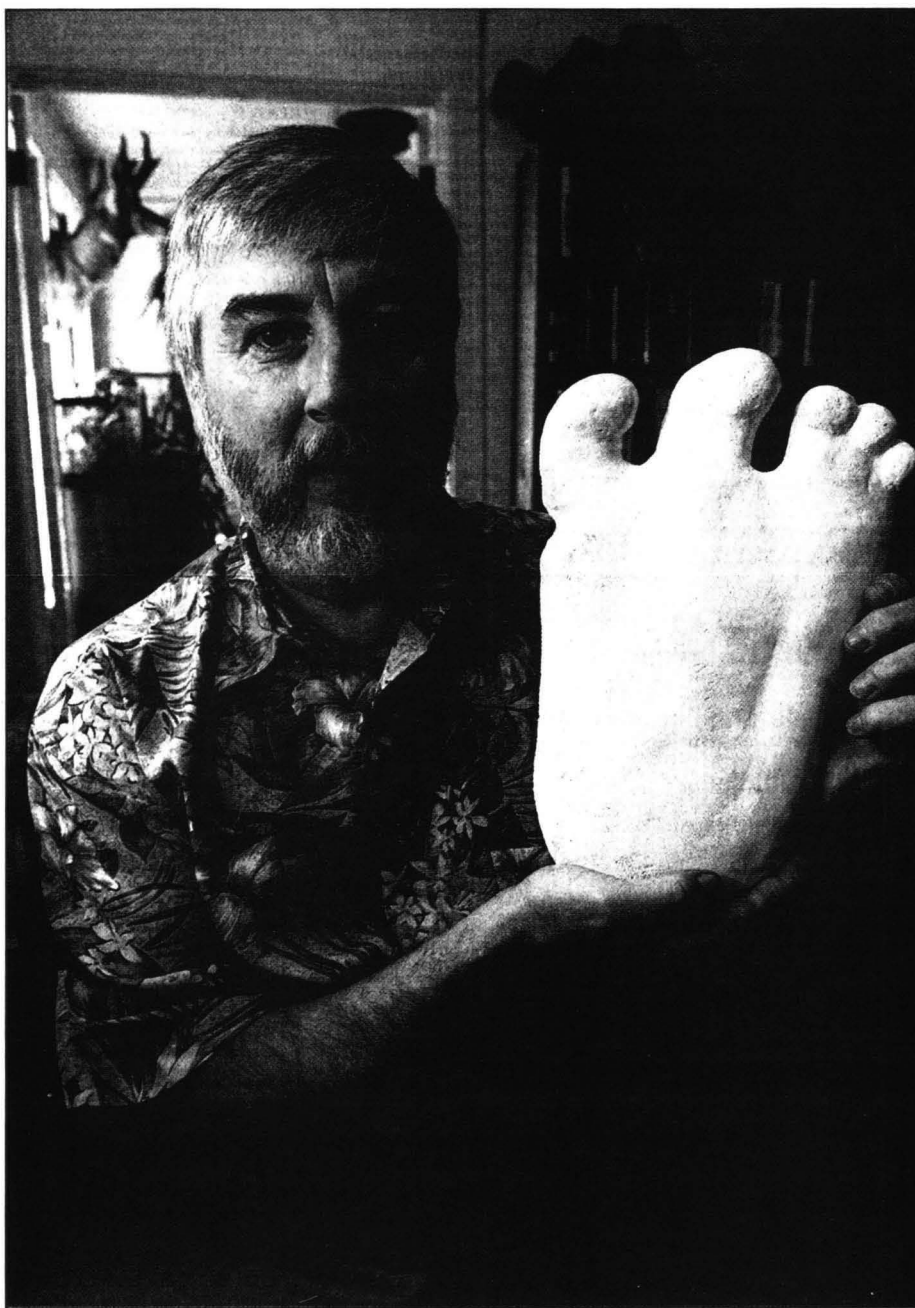
Loren Coleman

Coleman, 51, a Portland writer, consultant and college professor, is at heart a cryptozoologist — a student of hidden, undiscovered and unknown animals.

He has been captivated by the subject since he was a boy, and has written more than 150 articles on it. He published his first article, "Mystery Animals in Illinois," when he was still a teen-ager. He wrote his first book on the subject when he was 22.

Coleman has tracked sightings of mysterious animals across 45 states and all over Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. He has interviewed witnesses and gathered and catalogued information about Bigfoots, sea serpents and other beasts outside the current zoological spectrum.

Coleman's place as a national authority on cryptozoology will be furthered next spring when his two newest books are published: "Encyclopedia of Cryptozoology," by Simon and Schuster, and "Field Guide to Bigfoots, Yetis and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide," by Avon Books.



Loren Coleman, a cryptozoologist, holds a foot cast of Yeti, the elusive Himalayan abominable snowman, at his home in Portland. Coleman will publish two new books next spring on cryptozoology, the study of hidden, undiscovered and unknown animals. One of the books will be a field guide.

Staff photo by Herb Swanson

Coleman, whose educational background is in anthropology and social work, calls his pursuit an "intellectual curiosity."

"I'm not interested in ghosts or UFOs," he said. "I'm interested in tangible biological species. These are not wisps of smoke that I'm pursuing."

Although many scientists don't accept cryptozoology, there is a growing community of researchers trying to change that. The 20-year-old International Society of Cryptozoology keeps high scientific standards and has an established peer review system for filtering out faulty research and inaccurate information.

"What we're trying to do is produce better evidence ... publish, analyze, discuss," said Richard Greenwell of Tucson, Ariz., secretary of the organization.

He concedes that the field attracts more crackpots than, say, astronomy. But he says that makes the society's job all the more important.

Coleman said, "Some of the best skeptics around are cryptozoologists. ... We have to be very critical in our thinking, and not take everything that comes along."

Coleman, an Illinois native, moved to Maine in 1983. He had been researching Maine's animal legends since 1975.

He's studied black panthers, which have been reported all over Maine in the past 60 years; Indian devils, spotted in the western mountains and around Mount Katahdin; and sea serpents sighted in the Gulf of Maine.

The legend of Cassie the sea serpent goes at least as far back as 1779, when Ensign Edward Preble, the Portland naval hero, shot at it with a cannon. Many sightings were reported during the 19th century, particularly between 1817 and 1830, sometimes even by groups of sailors or ship passengers.

The last report came in 1958 from two Norwegian fishermen. In an interview with Coleman 27 years later, one of the fishermen, Ole Mikkelsen, gave this account:

"We were five miles off Cape Elizabeth. We saw an object coming toward us out of the haze. We took it to be a submarine, but as it came nearer it became clear it was some live thing, light brown like a cusk, with a tail like a mackerel's. It looked well over 100 feet long. Its head stuck out of the water and was broader than the neck it was on."

"I was not sure of its ears or eyes, but it could hear. Every time the foghorn on the lightship Portland sounded, she turned her head in that direction."

Mikkelsen said the animal could be seen for 45 minutes.

Does Coleman believe in the existence of the animals he studies? "Belief is a thing for religion," he said. "Among zoologists, naturalists and cryptozoologists, there is an acceptance of the evidence, or a nonacceptance. I accept that in 20 percent of the reports, there seems to be some actual evidence for an undiscovered animal. In the majority, it's misidentifications, hoaxes, mistakes."

He said he accepts that only a few of the mysterious animals exist. "I accept Bigfoot, Yeti in the Himalayas, and at least two or three different varieties of sea serpent. Hundreds of years of reports of sightings aren't wrong."

He said Bigfoot has been captured on film, and there are suspected hair samples, droppings and plaster casts of footprints.

But "until we have a body, people — straight zoologists — will not accept this," Coleman said. "So I have to keep doing my work, asking people what they've seen, how close they got, and what kind of traces they found."

Mainstream scientists won't accept the existence of any of the mysterious creatures until there is solid physical proof, such as a skeleton.

"Where is the evidence? Where is the specimen?" said Professor James Taylor, chairman of the zoology department at the University of New Hampshire. "Every species that is described to science has what is known as a specimen in a museum somewhere. We have physical evidence for ... things going back millions of years. A bigfoot would have a skeleton."

Physical evidence, Taylor said, is what science is based on. "It doesn't say they don't exist at all. We just can't draw a scientific conclusion."

The lack of a conclusion is exactly what keeps Coleman going. "It's the pursuit of the unknown," he said.

If his newest books are a success, he hopes to make cryptozoology a full-time job.

"All of the animals in the world have not been classified yet," he said, with a glimmer of hope in his voice.

FOR MORE on mysterious beasts, see Press Herald Online: www.portland.com

Sweden hopes for break to spot creature in lake

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — An international team of monster-seeking specialists will explore the Great Lake at Ostersund in central Sweden later this month in an effort to solve a centuries-old mystery.

A fleet of 16 boats will set off on Aug. 16 equipped with state-of-the-art sonar equipment to try to track a horselike creature that has been spotted on 150 occasions by 450 persons since 1635.

"So many people have seen something very big out there, with sightings recorded in notebooks about the monster since the 17th century," Kennet Kristiansson, a member of the search team, said yesterday.

"But very little research has been done in this lake, which is very large and very deep. Often locals discover rare fish of up to [three feet] or more."

Another specialist Adrian Shine, who has hunted for Scotland's Loch Ness monster for 20 years, will head the search equipped with specially built underwater machines.

The Great Lake, Sweden's fifth-largest lake, is located 370 miles northwest of Stockholm.

Mr. Kristiansson said the search would be the most extensive ever of the lake, with the team including interested parties from Sweden, and researchers from Britain and Europe.

"Some say they have seen wave movements. Others have seen something resembling the head of a horse which I guess is very similar to the monster spotted in Loch Ness. Others have seen something like a snake," Mr. Kristiansson said.

Project leader Anders Brattgrä said that 15 small boats would scan the lake, and a large research boat with sonar equipment would accompany the fleet to take visual pictures of any objects discovered.

Reported sightings of Sweden's most famous lake monster date to 1635 with a written mention of a creature in a parish register kept by Parson Mogrens Pedersen at nearby Herdal.

By the late 19th century the frequency of sightings rose and in 1894 a group from Ostersund set up an operation called the Company to Capture the Great Lake Monster to track down the animal, using traps baited with pigs and live calves.

Mystery footprints draw curious to reserve

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. (CP) — The discovery of a footprint a third of a metre in length has members of a Saskatchewan reserve looking for signs of an elusive creature steeped in aboriginal legend.

Curiosity seekers point out that the tracks coincide with the disappearance of a dog and a bull on the Beardsy's and Okemasis First Nation in northern Saskatchewan.

The prints were spotted July 26 by Janet Gamble, who was jogging near her home.

"When I noticed the footprint, I looked around to see it again, and stepped all over another print," Gamble said. "Realizing what I'd seen, I just panicked."

Gamble and her husband Dennis followed the tracks which cut through the bush along the side of the road.

Her husband and his brother videotaped the tracks after realizing how easily they could be washed away.

In an effort to determine the actual nature of the footprints, the Gambles contacted the RCMP, the University of Saskatchewan and reserve elders.

"The RCMP told us they couldn't do too much else (unless) something serious happened like a mutilation," said Dennis Gamble.

"The anthropology department of the university didn't seem very interested," he added.

Archie Baptiste of the Red Pheasant reserve told them it was caused by mistysen.

Baptiste said mistysen, which translates to big man or big person, are legendary creatures which do not go near people and always hide.

Eugene Gardypie, a friend of the Gambles who helped with the tracking, doesn't understand why the RCMP aren't involved.

"Early in the spring, a nearby farm had a bull go missing, it was later found dead with sev-

eral bites taken out of it," said Gardypie. "Just this past week, another bull has gone missing and so has a Rotweiler from another farm."

Gardypie said there were several droppings in the area that he said were not animal or human.

"I don't know what it is, but with a 14-inch by seven-inch-wide print and a stride of six feet, it is odd," he said. "It is definitely strange."

Since word of the mysterious visitor leaked out, the Gamble property has been overrun with curious people seeking a glimpse of the Bigfoot.

Gamble said although he understands people's curiosity, the constant flow of people is becoming obtrusive.

"We haven't slept properly for a week because of all the people tramping around," he said. "People should understand the prints are no longer there to be seen, they should just stay home."

DAILY PRESS, Newport News, VA - May 13, 1998 CR: L. Bryant

Snowballs in space are hot issue

Theory suggests cosmic ice chunks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Space snowballs may be pelting the Earth's atmosphere, but not in the blizzard of ice boulders proposed by a famous theory, researchers say in the latest volley between warring scientists.

Satellite measurements and calculations by experts suggest that the Earth's extreme upper atmosphere is too dry for there to be a constant shower from space of huge chunks of ice, scientists say in a study to be published Thursday.

But Louis A. Frank, a University of Iowa physicist, just shrugs off the latest attack on his theory.

"There's no way that could be

right," he said of the new study. "There are some people who are just being more emotional than scientific about this thing."

In the small community of atmospheric physics, emotions about Frank's theory have reached a red-in-the-face, fist-shaking level. Five studies attacking the theory were published this year, and at least four more opposing it are planned this month at an American Geophysical Union meeting in Boston.

But Frank is unruffled. The Iowa scientist says he has proven his case. "The only thing that changes some scientists' opinion is death," he said.

Twelve years ago, Frank presented evidence that a satellite had found what he said were house-sized chunks of ice speeding through space and colliding with the upper reaches of the atmo-

sphere. When that finding was denounced, Frank designed a camera for a new satellite.

At a meeting of the AGU last year, he presented new pictures that showed objects streaking in from space and then ballooning into clouds some 600 to 15,000 miles above the Earth's surface. He said the objects were ice chunks weighing up to 40 tons moving at more than 20,000 miles an hour.

Frank said the space ice adds up to an inch of water to the planet every 20,000 years, and that it may be the source of water for the Earth's oceans.

Many scientists at the meeting said Frank proved that comets routinely were hitting the atmosphere and some suggested it was a major new discovery. But most doubted if the comets were as big or as numerous as he claimed.

N.W. FLORIDA DAILY NEWS, Fort Walton Beach, FL - May 8, 1998 CR: R. Reid

Unwrapping the mystery of famed Shroud of Turin

By DAVID SMYTH

For AP Special Features

The Shroud of Turin, the alleged burial cloth of Jesus, is perhaps the most famous relic in Christendom.

Is it genuine or is it a fake?

Ian Wilson addresses that question in "The Blood and the Shroud: New Evidence That the World's Most Sacred Relic Is Real" (Free Press, \$25).

As the book's subtitle reveals, Wilson is a believer in the shroud. This may seem misguided.

The relic was denounced as a fake in 1389 by French Bishop Pierre D'Arcis, who said his predecessor in the 1350s had found the cloth to have been "cunningly painted" by human hands. Then, in 1988, three world-famous laboratories announced that carbon-dating had conclusively placed the relic in the period 1260 to 1390. Science and ecclesiastical authority had thus spoken in unison: The cloth must be a medieval forgery.

Wilson, author of the 1978 best seller "The Shroud of Turin," still is not convinced.

D'Arcis was the ecclesiastical

rival of the church where the shroud was attracting lucrative hordes of pilgrims. And despite his protests, Pope Clement VI allowed exhibitions of the relic to continue.

Carbon-dating of other archaeological objects has proved to be wildly inaccurate. A fire that scorched the cloth in 1532 and melted the silver ornamentation on its casket may have thrown out the carbon-dating. And microbiological contamination accumulating on the cloth's fibers over the centuries may have had the same effect.

Wilson argues that all the explanations of how the shroud came to be faked run into obstacles. Is it a painting? Well-known painters claim that it would have been impossible technically to paint the image as it exists on the shroud. Some sort of photographic process seems more plausible (the figure of a crucified man on the cloth appears in the form of a photographic negative). But what photographic processes existed in the 14th century?

Wilson demolishes various other

explanations, such as that carbon-dating scientists worked in cahoots with the Vatican, or that Leonardo da Vinci created the fake in 1492 (but how to explain its existence before then?).

And he points out other curious details: One scientist has found pollen on the shroud traceable to plants in Palestine in the first century; another has found human blood on the shroud (Group AB — is this God's blood type?); yet another finds traces of human DNA (Will this prove perhaps that Jesus had a human father?).

All this has brought forth conspiracy theories. Wilson notes that one recent book claims that the Vatican is intent on proving the shroud to be a forgery, although it is genuine, because if accepted as the imprint left by a living man it would undermine belief in the Resurrection. In fact, the Catholic Church is planning public exhibitions of the shroud in Turin through June, so the Vatican seems to have scant interest in downplaying the evidence. The Church has not formally endorsed the shroud as a genuine relic but if it considered the relic to be an outright forgery, would it be sponsoring such exhibitions?

Wilson may not be the only believer in the shroud. What is clear from his book, in any event, is this: If the shroud is not the genuine winding cloth of Jesus, then it is one of the most outstanding forgeries in ecclesiastical history.

JOURNAL, Providence, RI - Aug. 4, 1998

EAST GREENWICH
WARWICK

Nighttime 'boom': Theories resound, source a mystery

By JOHN DOHERTY
Journal Staff Writer

EAST GREENWICH — The police thought it was coming from upstairs in the station house. Some residents thought it was the Concorde's sonic wave rumbling overhead. Bonnie Zech thought it was coming from her basement.

The mysterious boom heard about 9:30 Saturday night in East Greenwich and parts of Warwick flooded police switchboards with curious calls and had residents eying the heavens and putting an ear to the ground.

Its source has stymied officials.

"We called everyone we could think of," said East Greenwich Police Chief Lawrence Campion Jr., who reported that the sound shook his station house and prompted officers to run upstairs to see if something heavy had fallen over. "It's a mystery. And it's not the first time it's happened, either."

A similar boom — described as a short rumbling sound, like a muffled explosion — was reported about six weeks ago in East Greenwich.

Many residents theorized that the culprit was the Concorde — the intercontinental supersonic jet — breaking the sound barrier on its way to JFK Airport in New York City.

"Not likely," said Patricia Goldstein, public affairs director for T.F. Green Airport. "That has happened in the past but hasn't occurred lately, as far as we know."

Bonnie Zech, a resident of Reynolds Avenue in East Greenwich, never suspected the sky.

The rumbling drove residents in her neighborhood out of their houses. It rattled windows and shook their houses and seemed to be coming from the ground, she said.

"It led me to think it was something seismic," said Zech. "It definitely wasn't the Concorde."

Warwick police also received numerous calls on the noise, mainly from residents in the Cowesett and Potowomut neighborhoods — residents who are accustomed to attributing all things loud and bothersome to the airport.

But Goldstein said there were no operational incidents — either on

'It was all quiet on this front. It wasn't us.'

— Patricia Goldstein,
Public affairs director;
T.F. Green Airport

the ground or in the air — that the airport could attribute to the boom.

"It was all quiet on this front," she said. "It wasn't us."

A similar mysterious boom confounded residents and officials in Cranston last November. That earth-shaking, bed-rattling boom was later attributed, with some certainty, to trapped gas being forced through a 90-degree turn in a sewer line.

Campion said the noise didn't sound to his men like indigestion in the town's belly.

"But then, we've never heard that before either," he said.

Lt. Geoffrey Rinn, who was on duty at the East Greenwich police station during the boom, had no explanation for the mysterious percussion that caused no property damage.

"We once had a gas explosion years ago," said Rinn. "That's what it sounded like: an explosion in the distance."

CR: J. Trainor